

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The Siberian Mail of the 24th ultimo arrived on the 14th instant.

The German Mail of the 17th ultimo arrived on the 14th instant.

The Siberian Mail of the 26th and 27th ultimo arrived on the 18th instant.

The French Mail of the 19th ultimo arrived on the 20th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

H. E. Wu Ting-fang was due in Peking last week.

Hankow has been declared an infected port by the Superintendent of Customs and the Consular Body at Shanghai.

The Provincial Government of Yunnan is burning all the opium it confiscates. A recent report mentions the burning of 20,000 ounces on one day.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has opened a sub-agency at Hongkew, No. 9, Broadway, Shanghai. Mr. E. E. Deacon will be in charge.

Certain charges have been made before the British Consul, at Batavia, against the captain and one other officer of the fine ship *King George*, recently reported as wrecked off Java, and a court of enquiry is to be held in Singapore into the disaster.

Mr. N. Williamson, Political Officer at Sadiya, Upper Assam, recently delivered an address before the Royal Geographical Society advocating the construction of a railway from India to China via Lohit valley to Szechuan as a means of procuring enormous expansion of trade between India and China.

It is a picturesque detail as showing the way of the world, especially in official circles of intrigue in the capital, the *China Times* says, that the ex-Viceroy Tuan Fang of Chihli, when he arrived in Peking recently had no one to greet or receive him except his own brother, Tuan Su. Otherwise he passed from the station to his new residence in the capital unnoticed and unattended.

The *Japan Mail* observes that nearly all the Japanese newspapers of Tokyo allege that Dr. Morrison has ceased to be *The Times'* correspondent in Peking, and that his place is to be taken by Mr. J. O. P. Bland. Our contemporary adds:—We believe this statement to be misleading. It is true that Mr. Bland—whose brilliant contributions to the correspondence columns of *The Times* used to be quite a feature of the great journal when he wrote from Shanghai—is to replace Dr. Morrison at Peking in the immediate future, but the change is only temporary. Its purpose is to give Dr. Morrison an opportunity of travelling through China and Manchuria.

Forty-five tins of prepared opium were seized last week at Manila on board the German mail steamer *Prinz Sigismund*, which had arrived in the port from Australia. The drug was found in the possession of a Filipino labourer, who attempted to smuggle the contraband goods ashore. Captain Lenz, of the *Prinz Sigismund*, it is stated, got to know of the illegal transaction and aided the customs authorities in the seizure of the stuff by notifying the members of the inspector's division on duty on board the vessel, who made the arrest. This is the first time a seizure of opium has been made by the customs on board a vessel coming from ports other than Hongkong.

A Singapore Polo Team is going to Manila for the Carnival. Teams are expected also from Hongkong and Shanghai. A Manila contemporary remarks that Hongkong, the colony the most neighbourly with Manila of any in the East, might be expected to send a large contingent were it not for the fact that the dates chosen for the Carnival this year in a measure conflict with an important festival at Hongkong. "As matters stand now, anyone who comes over from Hongkong will have to miss either the last and best half of the Carnival or the races. The directors should deliberate well on the matter before they decide definitely to select dates that conflict with Hongkong festival."

Japan papers announce the death in France of Mr. R. D. Robison, formerly of Yokohama. Mr. Robison had been ill for a long time, and the end was not altogether unexpected. Mr. Robison came to Japan in the early days, and was a leading figure amongst the foreign community of Yokohama until he retired some six or seven years ago. He was a partner in the silk firm of Robison and Wilkin, established in Yokohama about 1864, the business of which was taken over some time ago by Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. From 1896 to 1898 Mr. Robison was Chairman of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce (now known as the Foreign Board of Trade), and was greatly respected and liked by all who knew him.

A godown belonging to Messrs. Mackenzie and Co., of Shanghai, was completely destroyed by fire last week. The building was insured with the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. The godown was used chiefly for the storage of raw cotton, which after being pressed was shipped by the owners. The value of the contents is estimated at about half a million taels, and the damage done is assessed approximately at about three lacs of taels. The contents were the property of many owners, but it is believed that each lot was covered by insurance. Fortunately, the machinery used in pressing the cotton was situated at another godown, which will reduce considerably the inconvenience caused by the fire.

A remarkable story is related by Japanese papers in Seoul to the effect that three Koreans of unprepossessing appearance presented themselves at the Residency and stated that they had been engaged in alluvial mining in co-operation with twenty others for many years and had accumulated gold dust to the value of about 400,000 yen. They asked for advice as to the best way of disposing of the gold. Rather doubtful of the accuracy of the story an official went to the place where they said the gold was stored and was astonished to find the statement made quite true. Whereupon the authorities made careful inquiry, and it was decided that the gold should be sent to the Osaka Mint. It appears that these Koreans collected the gold dust from rivers having veins of the ore in their upper reaches and by digging ground over which rivers formerly ran.

Mr. J. C. E. Douglas, solicitor, of Shanghai has been to Dairen in connection with the trial of the alleged murderer of Prince Ito. The man's friends approached a Russian barrister of Vladivostok, who asked Mr. Douglas to undertake the case. Mr. Douglas visited Port Arthur, where he was received with every courtesy by the Japanese officials. The judicial authorities, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, authorized him to appear at the trial of the accused, if the latter so desired, and permitted Mr. Douglas to visit him in prison. Mr. Douglas saw the man, who appeared to have been well-fed and considerably treated during his detention. When informed that his friends had approached Mr. Douglas with a request that he should undertake his defence, the man expressed his gratification at learning that he had not been forgotten by his friends and relations. He willingly consented to his defence being undertaken by Mr. Douglas. He cannot be represented by counsel at the preliminary investigation, but as soon as the date of the final trial is settled Mr. Douglas will be notified and will proceed to Port Arthur.

THE POLITICAL ISSUES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Daily Press, December 11th.)

There were few Britishers probably outside the ranks of the professional agitators, to whom the confusion of party strife has become through over-indulgence a practical necessity of existence, who did not on the morning of the 1st December wake up with a feeling of relief, that whatever might be in store for the future the first and decisive step had been taken towards overthrowing a House of Commons which had lost the respect of all thoughtful men; and, so far as could be judged by all outward tokens, had not gained the favour of any except those who in the troubled waters of anarchy hoped for private pelf from the general break up of society. One of the most curious signs of the time, and a sign which has marked each time the rejection of a revolutionary measure by the House of Lords, is that the revolutionary outcry, though ardently desired by the leaders on the Government benches of the socialistic propaganda, has in this case, as in all the others, failed to put in an appearance. Evidently with the hope that the men of the street were going to rise in their thousands to avenge the insult put on Messrs. ASQUITH, LLOYD GEORGE, and Co., by the decision of the Upper House to make an appeal to the sense of the nation at large, the Ministers had provided an overpowering posse of police to restrain the proletariat, which they had been assiduously nursing, from a premature outbreak of destruction. The backbone of a general discontent necessary to arouse the spirit of plunder was, however, totally absent; and the spirit of the nation at large has been shown to be averse from perceiving any element of danger to the people at large in the final appeal to themselves of the House of Lords. The whole scene can, in fact, be best likened to the historic appeal from PHILIP drunk to PHILIP sober, which amused and delighted the democracy of Macedon.

The attempt to make a constitutional matter out of the action of the House of Lords has plainly fallen flat. A House of Commons elected on false pretences to champion the supposed wrongs of Chinese labourers in South Africa has essayed without further instruction from its constituents to alter the entire course of government in the United Kingdom. Constitutionally it had no more right to legislate beyond the purposes for which it had been elected than had the "Rump" of the Long Parliament to vote a set of measures intended to make itself perpetual. It had been elected when Ship Money and the Star Chamber had excited the indignation of the nation. But conditions had entirely changed. Yet in spite of the many evidences to the contrary it still persisted in considering itself the Elected of the nation; and it was only on the memorable 20th April, 1653, when the Protector CROMWELL entered with his soldiers and ignominiously kicked it down stairs, that it could be induced to see that the power had left it; and that nothing remained, as with its successor of 1906, other than to utter feeble protest. Like its successor, it found when it emerged from the House that so far from the People feeling aggrieved, they were far more disposed to hilarity.

But it ill becometh him who buckleth on his armour to boast as he that taketh it off; the first great step in the long-impending struggle has been forced on the House of Lords, and to Lord LANSDOWNE's honour the gage ostentatiously thrown down has by him been courageously and unflinchingly taken up. The House of Lords has not, nor ever had, any intention to interfere with the nation's Budget. That is a thing which

from the first Parliament brought about by SIMON DE MONTFORT has been left to the Commons of England. As possessed of that experience in affairs that can only be brought about by a clear and uninterrupted view, possibly only to those raised above the heads of the busily struggling crowd, the Constitution wisely requires the acquiescence of the Upper Chamber in all measures; and it, following a similarly wise instinct, has never placed itself in antagonism to the people. It required, however, sure and certain evidence as to what really is the will of the nation; and the manner in which the present House of Commons had come into being, and the indifference or unconcealed dislike with which most of the measures brought forward by the present Ministry have been accepted by the country at large, have raised not alone in the House of Lords, but very generally through the country, a strong suspicion that on very material points the present House does not represent the views of the nation. It was only the other day that in referring to the meeting of the Associated Chambers of the Empire, we noted how entirely contrary to the view put forward by the present administration were the matured opinions held by the national parliament of commerce. The very last election to the late House, that of Bermondsey, where the people have under their own eyes seen the loss of one of their principal industries brought about by the false Free Trade of the Cobden Club, ought, with men capable of reasoning, to have at least brought about a strong suspicion that something was wrong. Free Trade is in itself a beautiful thing; so beautiful that we may well share the wonder of its first apostle that the whole world did not at once accept the principle. But, like the obstinate eleven on the jury, they did not see matters in the same light, and at once set to work to counteract the undeniable advantages which Free Trade under then conditions conferred on Great Britain. As COBDEN and the other apostles of the new doctrine rightly argued, the peoples of the Continent, as well as of the United States, did themselves a great injury by repudiating the "doctrine." This we may all acknowledge; and if we desire proof can see it any day in the drawbacks under which trade in the United States, more especially, is carried on. But acknowledging all this, we, unless we deliberately shut our eyes to the actual facts of the case, cannot deny that what we fondly call Free Trade at Home—admitting on our side duty-free heavily subsidised goods, while our competitors by heavy duties exclude our exports—has wrought condign mischief amongst our own especial industries; and is largely responsible for a great portion of the present distress and want of employment amongst the industrial classes. This is a fact which the more intelligent of our own people are, at last, in spite of the platitudes of the Cobden Club, beginning to see, dimly, it is true, in most cases, but yet plainly just beginning to recognise. This was the issue in Bermondsey, and there, curiously enough, the man sufficiently clear-headed to have reasoned from his own experience, and contrary to the doctrine of the little Englanders, won a well-deserved victory over both of his opponents. The example of Bermondsey, where the victory was won by one of their own class, and the cause championed in their own familiar language, cannot fail of its effects in leading others to discard the false lights which have been bringing the nation rapidly to its doom. On the more abstruse question of the proposed destruction of profit-earning capital, and the necessary consequent transfer of our

industries to other and wiser States, where political suicide is not yet rampant, the ordinary elector is hardly yet sufficiently instructed to be able to judge. Even he is, at last, awakening to a conception that all that is poured into his ears by his suspiciously interesting friends is not to be accepted as Gospel truth; and that the country, if it is to be saved from decay and ruin, needs some stronger and abler hands than those to whom the guidance of the Empire, for it is not England alone that is endangered, has fallen.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

(Daily Press, December 13th.)

Not many weeks ago we drew attention to some observations made by the Judges of the International Court at Bangkok pointing to the need of some system of registration of Chinese partnerships. The Court had been called upon to determine who were the partners in a Chinese firm which had become bankrupt. "It is a matter of great difficulty," said the Court, "to find out who the responsible partners in the firm really are—men of straw are put in as managers and found to be possessed of no means when judgment is obtained against them—and as soon as the premises are attached, people against whom there is no judgment come forward and lay claim to the property and repudiate all liability for the personal debts of the judgment debtor." Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore, as we said at the time, are familiar with these things. On many occasions the advisability of insisting on the registration of Chinese partnerships has been discussed in this Colony, but no practical scheme has been evolved to overcome the difficulties arising from the difference between English and Chinese law without prejudicing the flow of capital from China into the business life of the Colony. A paragraph in the *Daily Press* a few days ago mentioned that the Chinese Commercial Union of Hongkong has again taken the subject into consideration. At a meeting held last week a resolution was unanimously passed in favour of the registration of partnerships, with the proviso that the partners' liabilities should be in proportion to the amount of capital subscribed by each, and that "after the passing of the Ordinance those who prefer to do so should be allowed to use the *tong* name and have their share registered in the name of their representative, who should be held liable." It was agreed that before replying to the Law Society's request for information, the resolution should be circulated among the Chinese in order that a popular opinion may be obtained.

The question was raised in the Colony as far back as 1874, when the Chinese community presented a petition to the Government, calling attention to the want of a system of registration of Chinese partners, and suggesting that such a system should be introduced. A draft Ordinance was published, and though the Chinese community appeared to be unanimous in their desire that the Bill should become law in so far as it related to the registration of Chinese partnerships, the Government declined to submit the draft Ordinance to the consideration of the Legislative Council on the following grounds:—(1) Because it was doubtful whether the measure would have carried out the object at which it aimed; (2) because to follow capitalists who lived out of the Colony, and whose property was out of the Colony was impracticable; (3) because it would be legislating for a few

whose aim was virtually the destruction of competition; (4) because the exceptional registration of Chinese merchants would be unjust; (5) any such espionage would have the effect of checking those combinations amongst the Chinese residing at Canton, Amoy and elsewhere, which are calculated to stimulate and strengthen their trade at Hongkong; and, finally, that any interference whatever with the freedom of trade would be at variance with the general policy of the Government. Only three years later, namely, in 1878, the Chamber of Commerce represented to the Government that "the publication and registration of the members of Chinese hongts in this Colony is much called for." "The members composing foreign firms," wrote the Hon. Mr. W. KESWICK, as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, "are made known, and it cannot be requiring too much of the Chinese mercantile community in this Colony to conform to a rule which is voluntarily followed by other nations, but which they decline to observe." As we have shown, the Chinese mercantile community had actually petitioned for such an ordinance four years previously. The Government sent to the Chamber of Commerce a statement of the objections recorded in 1875 by the local Government to such an Ordinance, and the matter appears to have been allowed to drop for a time. But it was revived in 1881 by the Governor of the day (Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY) in a speech in which he mentioned the proposal and said he declined to accede to it because some of the leading Chinese bankers and others to whom, acting on his "usual principle," he had mentioned it, pointed out "that the Chinese system of trading would be completely upset by it—that there is an extraordinary net work of investments in this Colony, as in any other community of Chinese, and that it would interfere seriously with Chinese trade, and, in fact, tend to prevent the influx of Chinese into the Colony." Yet in the very next year we find the Chinese community presenting a petition signed by 68 well-known Chinese and chopped by 104 hongts calling attention to the evils "arising from the want of a system of registration of Chinese partners," and submitting certain propositions which they prayed might receive legislative sanction. The Registrar-General was of opinion that both petitions in favour of registration had been prepared in panic, the latest arising from heavy losses in house speculation, and he suggested that it might be well to let the over-speculation cure itself. Accordingly nothing more was heard of the subject till 1891, when it was once more brought up by the Chamber of Commerce, in the form of a recommendation in connection with a Bill to amend the law relating to Bankruptcy. They expressed the opinion that to render this Bill more completely applicable to local requirements it should be preceded or supplemented by a Bill making compulsory the registration of individual members of Chinese firms trading in the Colony. Nothing, however, appears to have been done in this direction. The subject, however, had been engaging the attention of the Government of the Straits Settlements, and in 1894 the Government procured from the Straits a copy of the Ordinance which had been drafted there, together with copies of the printed papers connected with the subject. Opinion was as much divided on the subject in the Straits as in Hongkong, and the Bill did not go beyond its second reading. Meanwhile the Acting Chief Justice of Hongkong had been making representations to the Governor

that a system of limited partnerships in *commandite* would be of great use here and would readily be adopted, but after hearing from the Straits Government, the Governor, on the advice of the Attorney General (Mr. POLLOCK at that time), decided that nothing further should be done "for the present." Once more the Chamber of Commerce reopened the question in 1900, and a Committee of Inquiry was appointed. This Committee unanimously decided, "though for different reasons," that it would be inadvisable to introduce the suggested legislation. This was thought to be the last word on the subject for a generation to come, but successive Judges have not ceased to comment on the need of some system of registration, and now we have the Chinese mercantile community and apparently the Hongkong Law Society re-opening the question. There has never been much difference of opinion as to the desirability of registration; the problem has been, as we have said, to evolve a practical scheme to overcome the difficulties arising from the difference between English and Chinese law without prejudicing the flow of capital from China into the business life of the Colony.

SINGAPORE AS A NAVAL BASE.

(Daily Press, December 14th.)

When the Admiralty entered upon the costly work of extending the Hongkong dockyard—a work which cost the nation a sum of £1,563,400—it was doubtless believed that in all probability in the coming years a much larger squadron would need to be retained in these waters than had hitherto been the case. But the rise of Japan as a great world Power and her alliance with Great Britain has altered world-strategy. British battleships were wholly withdrawn from Eastern waters, and while the new Pacific Fleet about to be created may serve, as some writer suggested at the time of the announcement, as a kind of naval recantation of the late policy, we in the East see in the scheme a probable further reduction of the units in the China Sea, and consequently less work for the new Admiralty dock. Moreover, there is a noticeable tendency in discussions regarding schemes for a Pacific Fleet to discount the value of Hongkong as a naval base, or rather to regard the Singapore position as the key of our modern strategical problems. We remember that when the *Times* a few months ago outlined an interesting scheme for an Imperial cruiser squadron, a high value was set upon the Singapore position. Now, we notice, a member of the Indian Staff Corps in an address before the Central Asian Society in London has outlined a scheme whereby India could maintain a Fleet in the Pacific provided and owned by the self-governing parts of the Empire. The paper was on "India in Imperial Defence," and the author, Captain MACAULAY, suggested that India's best contribution to Imperial Defence would be a contribution to the British Navy, but he regarded it as neither practical nor expedient that India should start building and maintaining a fleet of her own. His suggestion was, that the self-governing parts of the Empire should consider the construction of four Dreadnoughts to be handed over to the Indian Fleet. India's contribution he estimated at 2 to 2½ millions a year, which represents an insurance of only 1 per cent. on her ocean-borne trade. Captain MACAULAY suggested that India should take over the defence of Colombo and Singapore, the forces at these places being included in the

Indian defence system. He further suggested that India should take over the maintenance of the Indian and China Fleet units, and that these two squadrons should be incorporated in one fleet with headquarters at Singapore. The idea of the possible use of Singapore as a great naval centre naturally receives encouragement in the local Press. Hongkong, we are told, is not in the right geographical position. "It is too far from Colombo," says the *Straits Times*, "and too near one of the possible danger zones. In the event of grave international unrest, when doubts might exist as to the ultimate grouping of forces, it would be almost impossible to quarter a great battle fleet there, but in Singapore, at any part of the year, the biggest fleet in the world might rest snugly, and be in readiness to sail at a moment's notice to any point where its service might be required." Our contemporary goes on to say: "Broadly speaking, we stand equidistant from our possessions in the Far East and the Middle East, and we are no vast distance from Australia. We have open sea between us and Canada and the same between us and South Africa. A big fleet based at Singapore could not be bottled up if it had even twelve hours' warning. It would be in the best position for dealing with a Japanese attempt either on India or Australia, and it could intervene effectively if the dispute happened to concern the Philippines. In the present position of politics, we have to consider, also, the possibility of Holland being absorbed by Germany, and the Dutch East Indies passing under the control of Berlin. It would be ridiculous, no doubt, to describe that as a fixed object of German policy, just as it would be ridiculous to say that Japan intends to attack Australia, or to fight America for possession of the Philippines. What we have to deal with are not fixed intentions, but possibilities, and it is not difficult to conceive of circumstances arising which would cause the German Government to look very seriously at a proposal already boldly advocated by the well-known HERB HARDEN for a German Empire of the Middle East." But this list does not exhaust the "possibilities" in this part of the world. All the considerations advanced doubtless point to the value of Singapore as a naval base, but it will be a long time yet, we fancy, before the headquarters of the China Squadron are removed to Singapore.

CHINA'S NAVAL PLANS.

(Daily Press, December 15th.)

The London newspapers of the latter half of November devote considerable space to chronicling the doings of the members of the Chinese Naval Commission in England—their reception on arrival in London, their entertainment by the King at Windsor, by Sir EDWARD GREY at the Foreign Office, their visits to the Admiralty, the Royal Naval School at Greenwich and to the various dockyards. The exceptional character of the honours accorded is of course explained by the fact that a member of the Imperial Family of China heads the Mission. Prince TSAI HSUN appears to have been delighted with his reception, and especially by the welcome accorded to him by the King at Windsor. The "serious business" of the Commission, in England, according to Admiral SAH, was to spend about three weeks visiting ports, arsenals, dockyards, shipbuilding yards and training establishments, "carefully gathering and noting all improvements applicable to our Navy that may be suggested by what we see." The Commission, which is now at Paris, goes on to Berlin, Rome, Vienna and St.

Petersburg, and returns to Peking in January, when the results of their investigations will be embodied in a report to be submitted to the PRINCE REGENT. Contrary to announcements recently published in the American Press, the Commission has no authority to place definite orders for warships. Admiral SAH, when questioned on this point in London, disposed of the report by saying:—"We have no such authority. Eventually there is little doubt that such orders will be placed over here, but not for at least three or four years, and until our finances are in a stronger condition and we have completed the first portion of our plans." We very much doubt whether there is at present anything like a correct appreciation by the Government at Peking of the financial problem associated with the creation of an Imperial Navy. Many plans have recently been discussed in China for raising the necessary funds, and the latest contribution we have seen is the following:—"No plan has yet been definitely adopted. The most effective seemed to be to resume the sale of official ranks, but as this was forbidden by Edict, a reward of patents of nobility to be granted in return for contributions was deemed better. The Ministry of Finance has proposed to obtain sanction to institute a system of five grades of nobility, to be conferred on officials of the 2nd or 3rd Grade, or of higher rank, who may subscribe certain amounts to the Navy Fund." If that is the Chinese Government's idea of the best financial system that can be devised to create and maintain an Imperial Navy, they would be well advised to at once renounce the idea of a creating a navy. Well-informed writers on the London Press know what value to put upon the labours of the Commission. "The first criticism one is inclined to make of the visit of the Chinese Imperial Commissioners," says one commentator, "is that no navy can hope to be anything but a shocking waste of money unless it is based on a sound financial system, capable of meeting not merely the first cost, but all of the demands which minister to its efficient maintenance." The writer goes on to refer to railway finance in China, and then gives the warning that it is far more difficult to keep to the straight path in naval matters. The Japanese experience of a navy created without corruption is almost unique. Sailors know very well how easy it is to provide all the appearance of a navy, and yet the money may, through the inability of statesmen to visualise the very different demands of war from peace, be as good as thrown into the sea. When told he would command the Spanish fleet if war broke out with the United States, CERVERA replied: "In that case I shall accept, knowing, however, that I am going to a Trafalgar." "And how can that disaster be avoided?" he was asked. "By allowing me," he replied, "to expend beforehand 50,000 tons of coal in evolutions and 10,000 projectiles in target practice. Otherwise we shall go to a Trafalgar. Remember what I say." Something similar has been written regarding the unpreparedness of the Russian Fleet which suffered annihilation at the hands of Japan. But the writer we have quoted says: "It may be that all this has been foreseen." If it has, we are afraid it has been seen but dimly by the Government at Peking. Many of the schemes, including the one now most favoured, for providing the necessary funds are so ludicrously inadequate and unsatisfactory that one would scarcely expect to hear of them except in comic opera. Until China has a sound financial system on which the proposed Navy can depend for its

maintenance it would be folly to build a Fleet, and the sooner that is recognised and accepted the better for China. We have previously expressed the belief that this determination to develop her Navy will perhaps do more than anything else to compel recognition of the imperative need of a scheme of financial reform which shall comprehend the annual compilation of a National Budget. Not much progress will be made with the naval plans of the Government before that is done, and, in any case, it is unlikely, we think, that China will commence with the big shipbuilding programme mentioned in some of the Chinese newspapers. Before China goes in for Dreadnoughts she will need more cruisers and destroyers as a training squadron, and the larger units can be added later when she has trained sufficient men to man them. In this connection it is interesting to note that there is no inclination to seek foreign help in the training of the Navy. "I think we can get along by ourselves," Admiral SAH answered when questioned on this subject in London—which will perhaps be regarded as one more reason why the world should not be alarmed by the talk of China's plans of naval development.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

(Daily Press December 17th.)

A very interesting article is published in the *Revue des deux Mondes* from the pen of Mr. FELIX KLEIN, in which he deals with the relations between Japan and the United States, more especially in connection with the immigration question, which not long since attracted so much attention, but also in respect to the general relations of the two countries as to the Pacific. While taking a very moderate view of the causes which are likely to lead to friction between these two nations, Mr. KLEIN is by no means inclined to lessen their gravity or to ignore unpleasant facts, either in the past or in the not very distant future. He recognises fully the acuteness of the feeling which was evoked in Japan by the exclusion of Asiatics from the schools in San Francisco, but, on the other hand, gives full weight to the general friendliness which has always subsisted between the two countries, and which it may be reasonably hoped will go far in the future, as it did on that particular occasion, to smoothe over such difficulties as may arise. At the same time, he does not disguise that this question, though it may be put aside for a time, is one of which it is very difficult to see a complete solution. He points out that in the United States the Asiatic question is one which is not likely, unless some radical change takes place in the views of the people, to be capable of modification. It differs in an essential way from the negro question, to which some sort of solution, though by no means a perfect one, has been found. Upon this point Mr. KLEIN remarks that it would be an error to suppose that the opposition to the Yellow races is merely the prejudice of one particular class. The idea of the United States is to form, from very divergent elements, a people who will possess a unity, and as a whole will govern itself, without distinction of fortune, trade, or origin. "Everything which goes counter to such a unification and cannot be assimilated, compromises the working of the whole—the health of the body politic—and should therefore be eliminated." As experience proves, the different white races who adopt America as their country do assimilate themselves in an extraordinary way to her

civilization, but on the other hand, the black and yellow races are impervious to this influence and do not unite with the white population. This difficulty is very different as it regards the negro population and the yellow races, as the former do not belong to any outside nation of such importance or power that any complaints as to their being deprived of full civil rights will be made. If the negroes were still in Africa a good exclusion law would meet the difficulty, and "even if the Republic of Liberia were offended at it, this would not very much trouble the United States."

In respect to the number of the Asiatic immigrants in the United States, which is estimated at about 140,000, it is pointed out that, though this appears a small matter as compared with the 80 million inhabitants of the country, it must not, in judging of its effects, be considered in reference to the total population of the United States, but as it bears upon the comparatively still sparse populations of California and Oregon, where the Asiatic immigrants are concentrated and to which they have more easy access by sea than the Americans from the East have by land. The difficulty of the Asiatic immigration question in the United States is not lessened by the undoubted fact, to which attention is forcibly directed, that, say what people will, Asiatic labour is greatly required there. As Mr. KLEIN puts it: "They may not be liked, but after all they are wanted." This is recognised by those who are opposed to them in the United States, and is the cause which induces the Chinese and Japanese to leave their own countries and to be willing to submit to "Draconian" conditions of labour in a foreign land. They do not leave their native countries by caprice, but by necessity and because they cannot find means of subsistence in them.

As to the chances of the difficulty which he has fairly pointed out becoming mitigated as time goes on, Mr. KLEIN speaks with the reserve that is to be expected in dealing with so intricate a matter. On the whole, however, he considers that the good sense of both parties may safely be relied upon to avert the possibility of any resort to force for, at all events, some years to come. Neither party is desirous of going to extremes; and, as before observed, Japan and the United States have always been upon terms of mutual friendship and confidence. Under such circumstances, it may fairly be hoped that the good sense of both parties will find some means of coming to an understanding that may be satisfactory to both sides, and will diminish the acuteness of the position which has for some time past been felt. There is no doubt that not only as regards the immigration question, but in respect to trade interests, there is a likelihood for some years to come of there being considerable rivalry between the Western States and Japan. But it is not to be overlooked that if there are some things in which they must of necessity be rivals there are also very many in which they have common interests, and by careful management and wise diplomacy, it may be reasonably hoped that the latter will prevail. With respect to the ultimate solution of the difficulties pointed out, Mr. KLEIN throws out a suggestion, which, at first sight, seems somewhat Utopian; but which is still worthy of some consideration. He thinks it possible that the Japanese may be converted to Christianity, and may so far change their moral and social ideas that the barrier between them and the white races will be removed, and that they may then be welcomed in the United States in the same way as strangers from all other parts are welcomed. He even goes so far as to throw out the idea

that Japan may not only adopt Christianity herself, but may be the means of causing it to spread in China and in other Asiatic countries. There are undoubtedly some signs which may lead to a hope of this kind; but it certainly cannot be realised in the near future, and Mr. KLEIN frankly admits the difficulty of dealing with a question of so speculative a character. At the same time he takes a sanguine view of the effects which Christianity may be destined to produce. After reviewing what has been accomplished in the past he concludes by expressing the opinion that it would make a vast stride in Japan, if once the Missionaries found means of enlisting the services of native catechists and ecclesiastics. This, in fact, is already done to a great extent. "After all," he concludes "what nation in the past has become and continued Christian by following any other method? From the day when they have a Japanese clergy and episcopate, Japan will probably not have much hesitation in embracing Christianity, and, herself converted, will be able to evangelise, far better than we can hope to do so, Korea, China and, indeed, the whole of the Far East."

THE PROSPERITY OF HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, December 18th.)

The death of Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, who was Governor of Hongkong from 1887 to 1891, serves to remind us that at that time, as now, a gloomy view of the prospects of Hongkong was entertained, and found emphatic expression in a debate in the Legislative Council on a proposal to increase the military contribution from £20,000 to £40,000 per annum. Governor Des Vœux before leaving the Colony prepared a long statement in the form of a speech dealing with the condition and prospects of the Colony in detail on the strength of the statistics received, and (to adopt his own phrase) "dissipating the incorrect impression which had been given by looking at the question from only one side." He expressed the opinion, which proved to be correct, that such depression as then existed was only temporary, giving reasons for believing that the bubble of speculation having burst, the regular commerce of the Colony would in a short time fully retrieve the position, and in all probability bring about a prosperity greater than any of the past. That belief was abundantly justified by events.

During the past few years another "wave of depression" has been encountered, and it can hardly be said that it has "passed over" the Colony yet. Some months ago we reproduced from the annual report of the China Association a pessimistic memorandum by Mr. A. S. D. COUSLAND, the local Secretary on "The Arrested Prosperity of Hongkong," in which the causes of this arrest were explained and the conclusion was reached that Hongkong is gradually losing its old position as a distributing centre. Such pessimistic forebodings are undoubtedly widely shared in the Colony. We do not altogether endorse them. We are disinclined to believe that the prosperity of the Colony has been permanently arrested, and that our trade will decline as steadily as it has grown. Hard times are by no means a new thing to Hongkong. They have undoubtedly been bad within the last few years, but one can hardly say that the Colony has practically stood still. There are three useful tests that may be applied in order to ascertain whether the Colony, in a general way, is progressing or otherwise, namely, the population returns, the shipping returns, and the returns of bank notes in circulation.

Taking these tests in the order given it has to be noted that the last census showed an increase of 15,000 in the population (excluding the returns of New Kowloon). There was a decrease in the city of Victoria, but that is explained by the measures taken to diminish the overcrowding in the city, concerning which there had long been much complaint, but the reduction of the population in the city was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the land population of the villages on the island, while the population of "Old Kowloon" showed an increase of nearly ten thousand. Closer analysis of the returns reveals the fact that there was a sensible increase in the white population, and also in the Asiatic foreign population, and it need hardly be said that neither Europeans and Americans, nor those of "races other than European, American and Chinese," come to Hongkong and stay here for the benefit of their health. It must be assumed that if they are attracted here in increasing numbers it must be because there is increasing business here for them to do.

When we glance at the Shipping Returns of the Colony, we likewise find little justification for pessimism. With the Harbour Master's report an instructive diagram is published showing the tonnage entered at Hongkong from 1867. The lines on this diagram show that the entire trade reached its highest point in 1907. It fell in 1908 to a point lower than it has reached since 1904, but the average tonnage for the past five years is much above the average for the preceding quinquennium. Taking only the numbers and tonnage of vessels in Foreign Trade entered and cleared, the statistics since 1899 are as follows:—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1900	46,365	17,274,023
1901	46,201	17,825,309
1902	48,706	19,514,237
1903	46,255	21,716,870
1904	51,173	22,299,532
1905*	51,578	22,653,616
1906†	44,550	22,453,777
1907	47,660	23,032,891
1908	45,403	22,305,131

* Steamships not exceeding 60 tons in Foreign Trade included for first time.

† Decrease due to Typhoon of 18th September, 1906.

Highly satisfactory as these returns undoubtedly are, yet we must guard against the assumption that a growing volume of shipping necessarily implies in a port like Hongkong a corresponding growth in the volume of trade. This being a free port, there are no trade statistics, but it is common knowledge that a great deal of cargo which was formerly transhipped at Hongkong into coasting vessels is now carried by ocean-going steamers direct to or from the consuming districts. The vessels may still call at Hongkong, but they do not tranship here the same amount of cargo that they formerly did.

Coming now to the test of bank notes in circulation, we extract from the *Government Gazette* the returns for the month of November during the past ten years:—

	Bank Note average amount.	Specie in reserve.
1900	9,883,893	6,650,000
1901	11,118,448	6,750,000
1902	12,896,820	6,950,000
1903	15,606,901	9,150,000
1904	16,425,808	9,450,000
1905	17,456,558	11,340,000
1906	16,317,358	11,345,000
1907	17,417,769	12,750,000
1908	19,626,518	13,700,000
1909	15,869,499	17,400,000

These returns indicating the financial business passing in the Colony give little support to the idea that the prosperity of

Hongkong has materially suffered, and if it were possible to publish returns showing the increase in the amount of cheques cashed we think the proof would be still more striking.

The conditions of trade are altering no doubt. They have altered before. The opening of the Suez Canal and the laying of the telegraph cables were events that brought about great changes, and they were both supposed to be inimical to the interests of Hongkong. But the Colony has hitherto been able to adapt itself to new conditions, and considering the advantages it possesses as a trade centre it can hardly be doubted that it will continue to do so in future. Though much trade has undoubtedly been lost to Hongkong in recent years by direct shipments to other ports, and though there may be a prospect of this direct business growing, the Colony may surely hope to benefit by the railway developments now taking place in South China. As the terminal port of the great trunk line now being constructed through three of the richest and most populous provinces of China, the future prosperity of Hongkong ought to be abundantly assured. It is quite possible, however, that the causes detailed in Mr. COUSLAND's interesting memorandum will serve for some years yet to arrest the further development of the Colony, but we are bold enough to prophecy that in 1920 the indications of the Colony's prosperity will show an immense improvement on the indications for the year 1910.

DEATH OF THE KING OF BELGIUM.

(Daily Press, December 18th.)

The King of the Belgians is dead. The news of his death was not unexpected. His age rendered it practically hopeless that the operation necessary on account of his old intestinal complaint would be successful, and the hopes which were at one time entertained gradually fell as it was learned that he was sinking rapidly. LEOPOLD II., King of the Belgians, was one of the most striking figures in Europe. Though not the oldest reigning monarch—he was five years younger than the venerable Emperor of Austro-Hungary—he has sat upon the throne for forty-four years, and while he may not have been appreciated out of his own country his subjects entertained a lively affection for their ruler, who, it must be admitted, did not allow himself to be fettered by princely traditions, and showed to the world that he was a man of keen business acumen and sound commercial sense, and in this connection the reports will be recalled of his personal interest in railway enterprise in China. LEOPOLD II., who succeeded to the throne in 1835, had passed the allotted span of human life. His years numbered more than three score and ten, as he was born at Brussels on April 9th, 1835. In 1853 he married the ARCH-DUCHESS MARIE of AUSTRIA, by whom he had three children—two daughters and one son, the DUKE of BRABANT, who died in 1869 at the age of ten. Shortly after he ascended the throne he made a lengthened tour of Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor, and the great interest which he took in furthering the commercial interests of his country was exemplified when as Duke of Brabant he participated in important discussions in the Senate, more particularly relating to the establishment of a maritime service between Antwerp and the Levant. But it is especially in connection with the Congo that the dead King has attracted considerable notice, and the confidence that Europe had in him was testified by the fact that that State was

placed under his sovereignty on the basis of personal union with Belgium. That regime, however, did not prove satisfactory, and after protests had been made by the Powers interested a new arrangement was recently made. Only a week ago the Foreign Minister of Germany declared that the Belgian Government's scheme of reforms for the Congo, if loyally carried out, would contribute to the welfare of the natives, and achieve free trade for all nations in the Congo. His successor is his nephew, Prince ALBERT OF BELGIUM, who was born in 1875, and who has two sons and a daughter. Daughters are excluded by the Belgian Constitution from the succession.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

What weather for colds! The varying temperatures make it difficult to know what to wear and the result is that few are immune from rheum somewhere.

The past week has been remarkable for showing the great number of people in our midst who are at loggerheads with each other. The members of the Sanitary Board are still divided over the cemetery question, the Legislative Council is not unanimous with regard to giving greater facilities for litigants obtaining special juries when asked, one of the magistrates and a solicitor had a serious difference of opinion the other day as to whose name should appear as prosecutor in a certain case, and then we have the case against the excisemen for assault in which some sharp divisions of opinion have already been made apparent. And Christmas is coming too, when we want to be at peace with all men.

Writing naturally leads the thoughts to scribes, and their usefulness in supplying us with the day's pabulum. At the Supreme Court the other day a barrister asked a witness if he had seen a letter before it was written, and when the absurdity of his question dawned upon him he blushed and was heard to remark that it was a merciful dispensation of Providence that no reporters were present to note his bull. There might not have been any newspaperman, as they are called in America, present, but the incident was not allowed to go unreported. The omnipresent, omnipotent, ubiquitous reporter learned the story and the barrister's thankfulness was perhaps a little premature.

Training of the griffins has already commenced at the Happy Valley and not a few folks come back to breakfast with healthy appetites. It is too early yet however to spot any winner.

We are becoming quite Scottish in our public house reform. The new liquor bill contains a provision which has apparently been unnoticed. It certainly evoked no comment. Barmaids are to be abolished, and the public house loses one of its chief attractions. Many men like chaff with their beer and beer with their chaff. But doubtless the counter attractions to be provided will be found more valuable than what they have replaced.

The Government seem to be favorably disposed to the publichouse system which places it in the control of a private company whose profits shall not exceed a certain figure. Disinterested management sounds all right but it has to be borne in mind that disinterested management is not always disinterested. I have read criticisms of the systems in Sweden and Norway in which it was pointed out that the members of the company, having profits to distribute to local charitable and other institutions, acquired an undue social and political importance. Should the experiment be tried here it is proposed that the profits should go to the improvement of the public house itself. It certainly seems a sensible proposition that those who make the profits possible should reap the advantage.

From what I know locally I should say that Hongkong was emulating the Homeland in another respect. I refer to the decrease in

drinking. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted that the effect of the whisky tax was not only that people were drinking less but that many had dropped it altogether. In some districts in Ireland the drinking had gone down by 70 per cent. and in Scotland it had gone down by 50 per cent. It was unaccountable, he said, that people had not been driven from one kind of liquor to another but had been driven out of liquor altogether. Mr. Lloyd George did not attempt to take any credit to himself for the improvement, from the social point of view, which had ensued. This improvement was something gigantic. It is yet too soon to speak of the effects of the liquor duties in the Colony, but it is well known that the consumption of liquor has decreased, a fact which is explained not only by moderation among drinkers but to several having taken the resolution to "go on the water waggon."

Now that the Public Works Department has decided upon the experiment of laying wood paving in Ice House Street, the moment seems opportune to suggest that the local traffic Authority should impose regulations requiring vehicles in that usually busy thoroughfare being propelled at walking speed. Only the other day I saw a lady jostled in a group of rickshas and opium trucks, usually to be found ranged where the sidewalk should be, and the result of the encounter was that her dress was entirely destroyed by coming in contact with the greasy axles.

That is only one aspect of the state of affairs. The danger to life and limb from the same source must not be overlooked, and the inconvenience suffered by pedestrians generally in that thoroughfare has only to be mentioned to be appreciated.

I have not yet heard of any enterprising capitalist providing Taipo with hotel accommodation in view of the traffic which is certain to develop with the opening of the railway. June was the date reckoned on for the opening of the railway, but I understand it is not improbable that trains will be run from one end of the British section to the other within the next three months, and that though the line might not then be open to general traffic it may be possible to run a few passenger trains at the week end. It is time then for somebody to be thinking about catering for the wants of travellers. A costly caravanserai is not required, but a "house of refreshment" with a few tennis courts and bowling greens ought to be a remunerative enterprise. Here's a chance for the new Licensing Board.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The Hongkong Race Meeting has been fixed for the 15th, 16th and 17th February.

Major-General Broadwood gave an enjoyable dance at Headquarters House on Monday night.

H.M.S. *Alacrity* with Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton on-board returned to the Colony from the North on Dec. 13th.

The return of cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring in the Colony is a blank for the week ended the 11th inst.

The United States cruisers *Pennsylvania* and *West Virginia*, each of 14,500 tons, reached Hongkong on the 12th inst. from Manila.

Mr. T. H. King has been appointed to discharge the duties of Superintendent of Imports and Exports during the absence on leave of Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, R.N.

Two gangs of gamblers crowded the Magistracy on Dec. 16. One lot numbered 24 and the principals were fined \$50 and the others \$3 each. The second lot consisted of 20, and similar penalties were imposed.

A test case came before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy on Dec. 16th when a private ricsha coolie was charged with using the private ricsha in question to ply for hire. It was stated by the police that the defendant had arrangements with certain parties to take them to and from the Ferry wharf and the ricsha coolies naturally protested against the practice of the defendant. His Worship discharged the defendant with a caution.

The organ recital given in St. Peter's Church, West Point, on Tuesday by Mr. George Grimble was well attended. His selections from blind composers were greatly appreciated and the solos by Mrs. R. E. Bellios and Mr. R. E. White were well taken.

An extract of meteorological observations made at Hongkong Observatory during the month of November shows the average maximum temperature for that month to have been 75.5 and the average minimum temperature 65.4 degrees. The rainfall was .065 of an inch, and there were 187.1 hours of sunshine.

Considerable structural alterations are being made at present in Victoria Gaol. Practically the whole of the central portion, where the offices are situated, is being reconstructed, and the work is being carried out by prison labour. One of the features of the proceeding is the figure of an Indian guard, armed with rifle, keeping watch from an overlooking roof.

The two men who were on Wednesday fined for being in possession of opium which they were found secreting in Conduit Road were on Thursday sentenced to two months' imprisonment each for having a printing die in their possession for applying a false trade description to opium, purporting that the opium came from the Opium Farm.

The Bishop of Victoria and Bishop Ingham accompanied by the Revs. E. J. Barnett, P. Jenkins and Mok-Shan-Tsang and several Chinese laymen, have been on a tour of inspection of the Church of England Missions in the Tsan-Tsing district on the East River. They dedicated three new Chinese churches presented by the Chinese, and attended the active Church Council at Pit Tam.

The funeral of Gunner Woods, 88 Coy. R.G.A., who died at the Military hospital, Bowen Road, on Sunday night, took place on Monday afternoon. The cortege consisted of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of 88 Coy. and the bands of the Buffs. The interment took place in the Military portion of the cemetery at Happy Valley, accompanied by full military honours.

Inspector McHardy and a party of police who went to arrest a number of Chinese gambling on the hillside at Lyemun had an exciting experience when they approached the gamblers. The latter threw stones at the police, but their aim was not too good and no casualties were reported. Twelve of the gamblers made their appearance before Mr. Hallifax at the Magistracy on Dec. 15 and were fined \$10 each.

In the action brought by Umer Jooseb against S. A. Marican to recover \$152, balance due for wages, the defendant on Monday consented to judgment, and it was entered accordingly by Mr. Justice Gompertz in Chambers. Mr. F. Paget Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) was the solicitor for the plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell).

A robbery with violence was committed in broad daylight on Tuesday morning at eight o'clock in Wing Wo Street. A woman walking along the street was attacked by three men from behind, one of whom seized her by the neck and another snatched a gold and rattan bangle from her left wrist. The other tried to get away with a similar bangle on her right arm, but did not succeed. The three men then disappeared. The bangle stolen was valued at \$20.

H.E. the Governor gave an Official Dinner on Friday to which the following were invited:—Admiral the Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, Colonel the Hon. C. Lambton, Colonel the Hon. W. Lambton, Captain Clinton Baker, Commander Norris, Mr. H. Mulleneux, Commodore, Mrs and Miss Lyon, Major-General Sir Henry Rawlinson, Admiral Barry, U.S.N., Capt. J. M. Orchard, U. S. S. *West Virginia*, Captain J. Pond, U. S. S. *Pennsylvania*, Mr. W. A. Glassford, Mr. and Mrs. Rublee, Mr. G. L. Tottenham, M. F. B. L. Bowley, Dr. Thomson, Captain and Mrs. Lyons, Sir Henry and Lady May, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Ram, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Puckney, Rev. and Miss Spink, Captain and Mrs. Addison, Captain and Mrs. Bell, H.E. Major General Broadwood, Captain Heathcote, Dr. and Mrs. Voretzsch and Mr. Fletcher.

Mr. Fred J. Halton has been appointed Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. at Hongkong, *vice* Mr. S. Silverstone, who resigns at the end of the present year. Mr. Halton has been the chief assistant in the office for the past three years and acted as agent during the absence of Mr. Silverstone at home on leave last year. Mr. Halton has just returned from six months' leave, and his many friends in the Colony will be pleased to hear of his promotion.

The *On Lee*, owned by the Sze Yap steamship Company, on the 12th inst. made her third pleasure trip to Macao. She is a new vessel capable of accommodating over 1000 passengers and runs on week days to Kongmoon, making the trip to Macao every Sunday. The *On Lee* does the journey to the Portuguese settlement in three and a half hours and is well equipped for the convenience of European and Chinese passengers. The fare is remarkably low, being \$1.20 first class each way.

An interesting case was continued at the Magistracy on Dec. 13th when the hearing was resumed before Mr. J. R. Wood of the charges against Li Fuk alias Li Kai Mi of forging a deed of mortgage for \$10,000, which purported to be made by one Li Fuk, the registered owner of section B. of Marine Lot 163 Hongkong. Mr. Denny prosecuted, and Mr. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defence. Evidence was called and the case adjourned.

One of our American visitors, a lady, had an undesirable experience on Thursday. While enjoying the sights of Queen's Road Central she felt a tug at her purse and looking down found that it had disappeared. At the same time she noticed a Chinaman running off. The alarm was raised and he was promptly pursued by policemen, sailors and soldiers, but the honour of the capture went to a civilian. The theft took place about three o'clock and half an hour later he was in Victoria Gaol, having been sentenced to six months' imprisonment and ordered to receive ten strokes with the birch.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 40 of 1900.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Trade Marks; Ordinance No. 41 of 1909.—An Ordinance to exempt Crown Leases granted in respect of Foreshore and submerged lands in the New Territories from a certain condition imposed under the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, 1901; Ordinance No. 42 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1903, and the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1909; and Ordinance No. 43 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Order and Cleanliness Ordinance, 1867.

Chief Excise Officer Hoggarth and a party made a good capture in Conduit Road on Tuesday. They secreted themselves on the slope of the hill and succeeded in arresting two men as they were depositing opium in their cache on the hillside. Not only had the two men a quantity of opium in their possession, but one was found with a printing die which was intended to apply a false trade description to the opium in their possession, purporting that it came from the Opium Farmer. The first defendant was at the Magistracy on Dec. 15 fined \$26, ten times the value of the opium in his possession, and the second was fined \$33, ten times the value of the opium which he had when arrested. The charges of applying a false trade description was remanded.

A party of police from Victoria had rather a long excursion on Tuesday when they embarked on a launch for Tai O, which they reached when the shades of night even had fallen. Then they made their way, escorted by the local police, to a certain house, where it was found that gambling was proceeding and that quite a large number of people were participating. However, the advent of the police created the usual scare, and by far the larger number of those present made good their escape. Fifteen men fell into the hands of the police, but what was their surprise to find that the keeper of the gambling house was a Chinese detective. When the case was brought on before Mr. E. R. Hallifax at the Magistracy on Dec. 15th the detective was defended by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, and the hearing was adjourned.

Apparently the Sanitary Department offices have been put in a proper state of repair, as it is announced that the fortnightly meetings of the Board will in future be held there instead of in the Council Chamber.

The funeral of Gunner Hunter, R.G.A., who died at the Military Hospital, Bowen Road, on Thursday, took place on Friday morning. The cortege consisted of Officers, N.C.O.s and men of 87 Coy. R.G.A., and the bands of the Buffs, the latter playing the funeral marches *en route* to the Cemetery, Happy Valley. We understand deceased only arrived here on the *Rewa* last month, and leaves a widow and four young children.

A Chinese youth, 13 years of age, was charged before Mr. E. R. Hallifax at the Magistracy on Dec. 10 with conveying a letter to a prisoner in Victoria Goal. His Worship discharged the prisoner with a caution. A *lukong* was then placed before the Court on a charge of aiding and abetting the youth. On the charge being proved a fine of \$100 was imposed, the alternative being three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Two magisterial inquiries took place on Friday. One was with regard to the death of a Chinese, presumably a countryman, who while crossing the road near the Taiping Theatre, became so alarmed when he found himself in front of an approaching tram that he jumped clear of it only to collide with another car. He received injuries to his skull to which he succumbed in the hospital. Death was found to be accidental. The other inquiry was with respect to a Chinese found drowned in the harbour on the 17th November. Found drowned was the verdict.

Important seizures of counterfeit coin were made by the police during the week-end. At one house, 40, First Street, Detective Sergeant Appleton seized 276 Chinese twenty-cent pieces, 108 Chinese ten-cent pieces, 44 Hongkong ten-cent pieces, and 32 Hongkong five-cent pieces, and arrested three men. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson at 1 Ng Fuk Hong seized 367 Indo-China piastres and 321 Hongkong dollars. All the coins were beautifully made, sounded well when rung, but weighed lighter than the coins they counterfeited. The police have been working with a view to this seizure for three or four months, and they have spent about \$200 in making purchases to trace the sources from which the spurious coins were issued.

Vice-Admiral Sir Alfred Leigh Winsloe, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.M.G., has been appointed to the China Station. Vice-Admiral Winsloe, who is a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, was born in 1852. His record is given as follows:—Entered Navy, 1865; Captain, 1892; served Egyptian War, 1882; member of Committee for Revision of Naval Signals; served Naval Brigade in Expedition against Sultan of Vitu, East Africa, 1890; went as Commissioner to Massikessi to draw a boundary between the Portuguese and the Chartered Company, 1891; commanded H.M.S. *Spartan* during Chinese-Japanese War. Rear-Admiral Nov., 1904; Vice-Admiral, Nov., 1908; 4th Sea Lord of the Admiralty since 1906. Commanded the *Ophir* on the Royal Tour.

An interesting case was heard at the Magistracy on Dec. 16th before Mr. E. R. Hallifax. Acting Sergeant Grant prosecuted a well-dressed Chinese, who was said to be a comrade in the service of Sir Paul Chater, with being in possession of a shot gun. As the licence for the gun was produced in Court, his Worship suggested that the summons be withdrawn, but as the defendant preferred a charge of assault against the police officer Mr. Hallifax decided that the case should be more fully heard, which was done later in the day. The policeman's story was that he was approached by a rich *sha coolie*, who informed him that he had taken a fare to a Chinese club and the latter had not paid him. When he tried to enter the club he was driven off by the foks. The officer went into the club to find the man and was accosted by defendant, who challenged him for being on the premises without permission. Sergt. Grant then noticed the gun standing in a corner and asked if defendant had a licence for it. As he could not produce it the officer took possession of the weapon. The defendant alleged that the officer struck him in the chest.

THE ALLEGED FRAUD ON A SOLICITOR.

The case in which Lam Fuk Chiu is charged with obtaining the sum of \$24,000 from Mr. John Hastings by false pretences was again called in Mr. Wood's Court at the Magistracy on Dec. 10, when Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared to apply for the discharge of the defendant. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, represented the Crown.

His Worship—The prosecution now stands that the King is prosecuting by the Crown solicitor.

Mr. Shenton submitted that such could not be the case on the authorities. As his Worship had already seen from the Hongkong Ordinances, there must be an informant or complainant before the Court, or such a person must be represented by a solicitor. The position was put forward by Mr. Bowley that he was representing the Crown as informant.

Mr. Bowley—As prosecutor.

Mr. Shenton submitted that Mr. Bowley could not appear before the Court in his representative capacity, because the Court in which his Worship sat had authority delegated from the Crown itself, and he thought it was impossible for the Crown to come into its own Court as a common informant. There was a proper procedure set out and stated in text books, and that procedure was that the Attorney-General submitted the charge to the jury straight away. He did not come to a grand jury in a magisterial inquiry; the matter was put straight away before a common jury. The speaker had taken considerable trouble, but had been unable to find an authority or precedent for the course of procedure the Crown Solicitor wished to adopt, and before his Worship could commence or adopt a precedent wholly unknown to the Court, he must be satisfied that there was a precedent to act in this way. His Worship had seen that any person could lay an information, but the speaker submitted that that did not bind the Crown, and unless the Crown Solicitor was able to produce a precedent for the procedure he proposed to adopt, his Worship was wholly unable to consider the application. The matter was a very simple one. All that Mr. Bowley had to do was to submit, or place on the record, the name of one of his witnesses. He submitted that the Crown was unable to come into its own Court as a common informant, and his Worship was bound in duty to discharge the prisoner.

His Worship—I think it is my duty to hear the evidence called by the Crown Solicitor, and will remand the case.

Mr. Bowley—I would like your Worship to mention the fact, which is obvious to every one except my friend, that the Crown does not appear as a common informer. The information was laid by Mr. John Hastings, and on that information the Crown is acting.

Mr. Shenton—I would ask your Worship to note that, as I will want to make use of it at a later date.

His Worship, after noting the statement, said he would remand the case formally for a week, and fix Monday afternoon, the 20th instant, for the hearing.

Mr. Shenton applied for bail.

His Worship—What bail do you want?

Mr. Shenton submitted it must be a reasonable sum. He did not know what sum his client could put up, but the defendant was not a very wealthy man. Mr. Shenton suggested that \$20,000 would be sufficient.

Mr. Bowley agreed to this amount, and bail was fixed in the sum mentioned.

Mr. Ellis Kadoorie has renewed his offer to the Shanghai Municipal Council to contribute £15,000 towards the building of a second Municipal School for Chinese on certain terms. The offer was originally made in 1907, but the Council at that time were of opinion that the scheme was premature. The Committee of the present school has made strong recommendation that the proposals made by Mr. Kadoorie should be now accepted, and the scheme is to be submitted for sanction by the ratepayers at the next annual meeting.

PRESENTATION TO DR. J. C. THOMSON.

Dr. Francis Clark, Dean of the Hongkong College of Medicine, presided at a full meeting of the Senate (including the Rector, Sir Henry May), licentiates and students of the College, held in the Council Chamber on the 10th inst. for the purpose of presenting a piece of plate to Dr. J. C. Thomson on his retirement.

Dr. CLARK said—Gentlemen, we meet this evening to do honour to one who has served our College in various capacities and through many vicissitudes for no less a period than twenty-one years. In January, 1889, Dr. John Christopher Thomson took up the appointment of Medical Superintendent of the Alice Memorial Hospital, and at once threw himself with his accustomed ardour into the work of organization and teaching in the College of Medicine which had been founded but two years previously. His first appointment was as Lecturer on Pathology, and with the clinical material at his disposal in the Hospital he taught those earliest students, whose names you will find recorded on our rolls, the principles and practice of our craft. From 1892 until 1900 he lectured on the Materia Medica and Therapeutics and for the past nine years has specialized in the diseases of tropical climates, while of late he has also taught clinical medicine in the wards of the Tung Wah Hospital. In 1891 Dr. Thomson succeeded Dr. Ho Kai as Secretary, and has held that office until the present time, and that the College is now an unquestioned success you may justly attribute, in no small measure, to his indomitable perseverance, his pluck and energy. It is not easy, indeed, for some of you, who know Hongkong as it is but not as it was, to realize the difficulties which have been encountered and overcome, but looking back, as I can do, over rather more than two-thirds of the period of Dr. Thomson's willing service, I can see not a few of the shadows by the roadside—times when some of us were disheartened and felt that our labour was in vain, and when nothing but his cheery optimism has carried us onward to success. To the students Dr. Thomson has been as a father, chiding, encouraging, guiding, and I am convinced that there is not one among them who does not feel acutely the loss he is sustaining on the departure of their devoted teacher. To the licentiates he has been indeed a guide, philosopher and friend—to him they have been able to take their troubles with a certain confidence that sympathy and ready help would always be forthcoming; their successes have been his successes and their welfare as his own. And to the members of the Senate he has been a comrade, just and true, with the candour born of a real friendship and of a vital interest in our collegiate welfare. Truly may we say that

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man."

Dr. Thomson, on behalf of the members of the Senate, of the licentiates of our College, and of our students here assembled, it is my privilege to ask you to accept this piece of plate in token of our appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered to our College, and at the same time to assure you that you carry with you the heartfelt wishes of every one of us that you may long be spared to your family and friends in the dear Home-land. (Applause.)

The presentation consisted of a massive English silver tea tray bearing the following inscription: "Presented to John Christopher Thomson, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H. by the members of the Senate, the licentiates and the students of the Hongkong College of Medicine, in token of their esteem and in recognition of the very valuable services rendered by him to the College during the past twenty-one years. December, 1909."

Dr. THOMSON replied as follows:—Dr. Clark, Sir Henry May, Members of the Senate, Licentiates and Students,—I thank you from my heart for the generous testimony you have to-day borne to the feelings with which you view my approaching departure from the Colony. Your words, sir, will remain with me while I live; and this massive piece of silver will be treasured in my family in long years

to come, a silent witness to the happy relations that existed between myself and this College in the days of my residence in Hongkong. I arrived in this Colony on the 3rd of January, 1889, a few days only short of 21 years ago; and I was forthwith plunged in that stream of activity that has carried forward this College to its present soundly-established position. The organization I found was as yet a very small one. There were, in comparison with the present time, few medical men in the Colony. Facilities for practical and clinical work, now existing, were then undreamt of. The recognition of our diploma by the Government was still to come: in point of fact, our first students were scarcely fifteen months old. The claim for recognition of our preliminary examinations by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, now conceded, was a thing of the distant future. But, gentlemen, the teaching itself given to our first students was not one whit behind that of to-day. On the contrary, there were giants in those days. I found myself a member of a community that was small, but nearly every man was a master in his own craft. Patrick Manson was lecturer on Practice of Medicine; James Cantlie taught Surgery and Anatomy; William Hartigan occupied the chair of Midwifery and Diseases of Women; Gregory P. Jordan was responsible for Pathology and Morbid Anatomy; and J. M. Atkinson for Physiology. Medical Jurisprudence was taught by Ho Kai, a member of the English bar and a graduate in medicine of the University of Aberdeen; Botany by Charles Ford, head of the Government Afforestation Department; and Chemistry by W. E. Crow, Government Public Analyst. At a time such as this one tends to become reminiscent; and I am strongly tempted to refer in detail to one and another of the very many who have been my colleagues in the working of this College, but I have decided to spare you. I cannot refrain, however, from brief mention of my relations with one whose comradeship has been more to me than that of any other with whom I have been thus associated: I refer to your present Dean, Dr. Francis Clark. Since 1897, when he followed Dr. Cantlie in this office, we have been in continuous consultation regarding the affairs and interests of the College; and his courtesy, urbanity and strong common-sense have never failed me. He is one of the busiest men in Hongkong, but I never found him too busy to discuss with me forthwith the most trifling matter I have considered it necessary to submit to him as Dean of the College. When in these recent years my efforts to press upward the standard of teaching and the general efficiency of our organization have seemed to come in conflict with the interests of individual teachers, the assurance of his sympathy and co-operation have been to me a source of strength and confidence. Into the work of his own lectureship he has carried that conscientious punctuality, that precision of detail, and the quiet enthusiasm that are characteristic of all he undertakes. One aspect of his many-sidedness is a fascination for the subject of law, to which he has devoted much of his leisure; and his discharge of the duties of his chair of Medical Jurisprudence is the work of a man who is coincidentally riding hard his own hobby. When in the next few years he strives directly, and through your future Secretary, to still further elevate your standards, and enable you to claim for the Faculty of Medicine in the near approaching University of Hongkong absolute equality with the corresponding faculty in any university of the United Kingdom, I pray you have it in mind that in the work of his own chair in the years that are past he has earned the right to claim a very lofty standard in the work of those who have elected him their Dean. I have been honoured with his friendship; I am glad that this at least I do not leave behind me when I take my departure from these shores. I thank you all, gentlemen, for your forbearance with me, when at times I have urged more than has seemed to you fitting the claims of your undertakings to this College. None has realized more than I have done the immense amount of self-sacrifice that has been involved to all of you in the systematic teaching of your various subjects in a climate such as this, amid the claims of the busy life we all of us

have to live in this Colony. I have inwardly sympathized often when it has been my duty to outwardly ignore such personal claims, and to demand for this College regularity and efficiency from all taking part in its work. I congratulate you on the more favourable conditions under which in the University you will soon be doing your work; and I congratulate the College on the prospect it has of so soon merging in a movement that promises in the very near future to attain such great dimensions. It is matter for great satisfaction to me that the work of this College, to which so much of my thought and effort have been given during a period of so many years, cannot now go back or fall off; it is bound to go forward to high ends that even a year or two ago were far beyond our brightest of day-dreams. I take leave of you, students of this College past and present, with many regrets. My work among you has been almost unmitigated enjoyment. I love teaching for its own sake; and the hours I have spent with my classes, especially since I came to my own in the subject of Tropical Medicine, have been among the happiest hours I have spent in this Colony. Your devotion and attention, so far at least as my own classes have been concerned, have been beyond all praise. I hope your profit has in some sense corresponded. I have recognised from the first that your chief defect is the obverse of your best qualities, and I have done my utmost to correct it. For many hundred years your ancestors have had a system of education that largely consists in memorizing; and you have inherited splendid powers of committing what you wish to memory. I have striven to compel you to add to this a full measure of practical work in every department of medical study; and especially in my own classes I have insisted that you should see, and hear, and touch, and do for yourselves, wherever it has been in my power so to arrange. The relations established between this College and the prospective University of Hongkong are in my opinion suitable and satisfactory. You owe it to your Rector, Sir Henry May, that your interests as students were so well conserved in the original negotiations regarding the new scheme; and I am confident that in the working out of details, now in progress and likely to come in the near future, you will continue to be adequately represented by your Rector and his Assessor, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai. Both of them, fortunately for this College, are members of the working University Committee, and both are themselves university men and heart and soul in the project. And now, gentlemen, Members of the Senate, Students of the College, of yesterday and to-day, I must bring these discursive remarks to a conclusion. I wish you well; I pray you all prosperity in every sense of the word, to each of you individually, to all of you in your collective capacity, as members of the Hongkong College of Medicine. Again, ere I sit down, I thank you for this most generous token of the good will you bear me, and you, Mr. Dean, for your eloquent expression of it in the words you have addressed to me.

BISHOP INGHAM'S VISIT.

The Right Reverend Bishop Ingham, in company with the Right Reverend the Bishop of Victoria, returned on Saturday from a week's visit in the country districts east of Canton. During the tour Bishop Lander dedicated three churches in different villages. These buildings had been ancestral halls, and after being renovated at the expense of the residents, they have been handed over for Christian worship. Large numbers of those who were interested in the Gospel attended at every service, and before leaving the district the Bishops were present at the half-yearly meeting of the Chinese Church Council.

During the present week Bishop Ingham's time will be occupied with engagements in and around Hongkong. On Wednesday at 5.30 p.m. he will address Church workers in St. John's Cathedral. The Bishop and Mrs. Ingham will leave for Colombo by the s.s. *Delta* on Christmas Day.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Dec. 16th in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL R. G. BRADWOOD, C.B.

Hon. Sir F. H. MAY, K.C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. F. A. HAZELAND (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos 57 to 59), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 20) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LIQUOR DUTIES REBATE TO THE SERVICES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move the resolution standing in my name under section 2 of the Liquors Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, No. 30 of 1909.

Resolved that the sum of \$2,189 as an Import Allowance up to and including the 31st December, 1909, be paid out of the Public Revenue of the Colony as a rebate in part of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors to the Naval Authorities in respect of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors (not being Naval Stores the property of His Majesty) consumed at the Royal Naval Canteen.

Further resolved that the sum of \$10,268 as an Import Allowance up to and including the 31st December, 1909, be paid out of the Public Revenue of the Colony as a rebate in part of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors to the Military Authorities in respect of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors (not being Military Stores the property of His Majesty) consumed at Head Quarter House and the Military Messes and Canteens in the Colony or purchased by married officers or men borne on the strength of the Garrison for their own consumption.

Further resolved that the sum of \$8,400 as an Import Allowance for the year 1910 be paid out of the Public Revenue of the Colony as a rebate in part of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors to the Naval Authorities in respect of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors (not being Naval Stores the property of His Majesty) consumed at the Royal Naval Canteen.

Further resolved that the sum of \$47,600 as an Import Allowance for the year 1910 be paid out of the Public Revenue of the Colony as a rebate in part of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors to the Military Authorities in respect of the duties paid on intoxicating liquors (not being Military Stores the property of His Majesty) consumed at Head Quarter House and the Military Messes and Canteens in the Colony or purchased by married officers or men borne on the strength of the Garrison for their own consumption.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the resolution, said—Copies of the resolution have been circulated to members. The figures contained in the resolution are based on the return of consumption furnished by the naval and military authorities.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—In seconding, sir, I may state that in my opinion the amount should be treated as debit to revenue instead of an item in expenditure. This will make all the difference as to the payment of 20 per cent. for the military contribution.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The point raised by the Hon. Colonial Treasurer will be referred to the Secretary of State, on whose ruling depends the ultimate result. I shall be glad to recommend the point to his favourable consideration.

WIRELESS STATION ON PRATAS ISLAND.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen,—I have to announce to the Council that the recommendation which I made some time ago with regard to the establishment of a wireless station on the Pratras atoll to the Minister at Peking has been considered by the Waiwupu, to whom he referred the recommendation, and he informs me now that the Waiwupu referred the matter to the consideration of the Board of Posts and Communications, and the latter now reply that the Viceroy of the Liang Kwang has been instructed to at once make the necessary arrangements. (Applause.)

THE STAMP ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1901."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Sir, before the third reading is taken and the Bill passed into law, I have a few remarks to make. In the second reading I, together with the other hon. members, gave my support to the Bill, inasmuch as it would give people a tendency to take out letters of administration and probate within a reasonable time. Since then, however, it has been pointed out to me that the delay in taking out administration or probate is due to ignorance of the law or to not knowing that the deceased had property in this Colony. This especially is the case with the relatives of a deceased person who reside in Canton and the interior of China. Ignorance as to the property of the deceased in the Colony is remedied by section sub-section 20 (a), which contains a provision making it necessary to satisfy a judge of the Supreme Court that due and reasonable diligence has been exercised in ascertaining the existence of property in this Colony but without success, then the judge will not impose a penalty. As to ignorance of the law, I think we will have to devise some special means of making provisions of this Ordinance as widely known among the Chinese as possible. All the Ordinances are not translated beforehand and it will take some little time to translate and circulate this one. What I recommend the Government to do is to postpone the enforcement of this Ordinance until a translation has been made and copies distributed among the Chinese houses and shops in this Colony. It is well known that very few Chinese read the *Gazette* and very few read the European newspapers, and in order to bring the provisions of this Ordinance to the notice of Chinese in Canton and other parts of China as well as in Hongkong I think translations should be distributed, as it will encourage the Chinese to come forward to take out administration and probate and will also prevent hardships to the relatives of the deceased person who may not be aware of the law and will have as a consequence to pay three times the amount he would have had to at first.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK supported.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I take it that the motion which the hon. member who has just spoken desires to make is that the Bill should be recommended for consideration of the last clause, which bears the date on which this Bill comes into operation.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I propose that the Bill be recommended with a view to considering the last clause.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK seconded.

Council then went into Committee to consider the clause.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI moved that the clause should read that the Ordinance should come into operation on July 1st, so as to allow six months for translation of the Ordinance and distribution of copies among the Chinese community. He thought this would facilitate the enforcement of the Ordinance and that the time would not be lost.

The COLONIAL TREASURER was of opinion that six months was a very long time to allow for translation. It could be done in a fortnight.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY agreed, and said that the trouble was not ignorance as advised, but the trouble which has been found by the officers who had to administer probate was that full disclosure was not made. It was not that a man did not make disclosure, but he did not make full disclosure.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI replied that that was provided for in another section.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said concealment would have to be proved, and that was a difficult thing to do in connection with Chinese shops. If it could be proved, they could prosecute a man before the Magistrate and get him imprisoned. This clause was another way of remedying the evil.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated that the hon. member might not know that in the present Ordinance the principle of penalising for ignorance and carelessness is enforced to the extent of ten times the duty not paid. No one had ever objected to that on account of people not being aware of it.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said he was only speaking on behalf of people residing out of the Colony who did not know the law.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said they could not recognise people outside the Colony.

HIS EXCELLENCY remarked that in such a case the person would have the "opportunity of showing to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that the Ordinance did not take effect until after the interval of a year.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI asked what would be the result if a person did not know he had property here.

The CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said they could not teach Hongkong law to all in the Kwangtung province.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI replied that if the Chinese here were given a little time they would be able to let people in the country know how matters stood.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY pointed out that they knew it already.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said he had been informed by a big firm of solicitors that they had several cases in which people did not know they had property in the Colony. One occurred within the past week in which a widow came here to take out probate six years after the death of her husband.

The COLONIAL TREASURER pointed out that whatever they did there were bound to be cases like that.

Hon. Mr. STEWART remarked that all the hon. member asked for was that step should be taken to render these cases as few as possible.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT observed that if they agreed to this proposal they were opening a wide door, and equal time might be demanded so that all laws could be translated into Chinese and circulated not only in the Colony but among the neighbouring provinces.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said he was not opposing the law. He simply wanted to make it known so that many hardships might be prevented.

HIS EXCELLENCY remarked that the Ordinance was very short, and he thought postponement until February 1st would give ample time for translation and distribution.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI asked if His Excellency would consent to March 1st.

HIS EXCELLENCY said this was only for the purpose of translation.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI added that he wanted due knowledge to be given to the Chinese.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said they might object to any criminal law on the same ground.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE stated that it would be twelve months before any penalty would be inflicted.

Hon. Mr. STEWART thought the object would be served if a translation were made and widely circulated.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI amended his motion to read March 1st.

This was accepted by the Committee.

On Council resuming.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SQUATTERS' AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Squatters' Ordinance, 1890."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, before I move the third reading of the Bill entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licences Ordinance, 1898, and the Liquor Licences Extension Ordinance, 1908, and to repeal the Liquor Licences Amendment Ordinance, 1902." I beg to move that the Bill be recommitted, as I have a few formal amendments to make.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to. Council then went into Committee on the Bill, and on resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council will adjourn *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) in aid of the Vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, B.—Magistracy, Other Charges, New Territories, Incidental Expenses.

POLICE AND PRISON VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Forty-four thousand one hundred and twenty-one Dollars (\$44,121) in aid of the Vote, Police and Prison Departments, Special Expenditure, Fire Brigade, Floating Fire Engine.

POST OFFICE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Eighty-one thousand three hundred and fourteen Dollars (\$81,314) in aid of the Vote, Post Office, Hongkong Post Office, other Charges, for the following items:—

Carriage of Mails:—

Share of Mail Subsidy	\$34,214
Transit Charges	47,000
Light	100

Total \$81,314

The CHAIRMAN—The vote is largely due to the increased popularity of the Siberian route.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—You get the same postage on the Siberian route?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, four cents.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Is it just that those who make use of the Siberian route should have their excess cost borne by the ratepayers who do not make use of it?

The CHAIRMAN—It is imperial policy.

THE COLONY'S FINANCES.

The financial statement issued by the Colonial Treasurer for the month of September shows a balance of assets and liabilities on 31st August of \$481,083.73, and this, plus the revenue for September, \$389,699.10, gives a total of \$870,782.83. Deducting the expenditure for September, \$193,167.25, the credit balance stands at \$677,615.58.

The statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities places the total assets at \$978,812.81 and the total liabilities at \$301,197.23. The reimbursement due by railway construction account on December 31st, 1908, is \$1,356,136.50, and with the credit balance for 1909 deducted it stands at \$1,004,567.39. Adding the previously mentioned credit balance of \$677,615.58 the balance of assets (General Account) now stands at \$1,682,182.97.

A Selangor Government Gazette Extraordinary notifies a change in the import duties on opium. From December 1, the duty will be \$1,600 per chest of forty balls, and \$1,600 per chest or packet weighing 120 catties. The import duty on opium has hitherto been \$560 per chest of forty balls. The average yield of pure chandu from one ball of opium is estimated at 28 tahils or 37½ ounces.

DEATH OF SIR WILLIAM DES VŒUX.**THE HONGKONG CHAPTER IN HIS CAREER.**

It is eighteen years since Sir William Des Vœux left Hongkong, but there are still many residents in the Colony by whom he is well remembered and who will regret to read the announcement of his death published in the *Daily Press* of the 17th inst. Sir William Des Vœux resigned the Governorship of Hongkong owing to ill-health, and this step marked the termination of his colonial service, which he commenced in Upper Canada in 1861. From 1863 to 1869 he was magistrate in British Guiana. His next appointment was as Administrator and Colonial Secretary of St. Lucia, a position he filled for eleven years. In 1880 he became Governor of the Bahamas, but in the same year he was chosen for the post of Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific. In 1886 he was transferred to Newfoundland, and he was appointed to Hongkong the following year.

In 1903 Sir William published in two volumes a record of his Colonial Service, in the course of which he has given an account of his social and private life here as well as of the administrative duties he was called upon to discharge. In less than two years after his arrival in Hongkong, Sir William's health became so bad that he not only had to make a short trip to Japan, but also had to go Home on leave. On that occasion His Excellency was presented with a public address, which we may here reproduce, as it succinctly enumerates the various works undertaken during Sir William's administration. The address, which was presented by the Hon. Mr. Phineas Ryrie, as the Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, was as follows:—

"We, the undersigned merchants, bankers, professional men and traders, representing all races and classes in this community, are assembled here to-day, in the first place, to do you honour as the representative of our Sovereign lady the Queen-Empress; in the second place, to acknowledge and thank you heartily for the good work you have done for us and for the Colony during your stay among us, and to express to you and Lady Des Vœux our extreme regret that the severe labour you have imposed on yourself on our behalf and in our service, and the cares and anxieties of government, during the last two critical years have so seriously affected your health that you have been advised to leave us at so early a period in the term of your government. Your Excellency introduced yourself to us as a man of deeds, not words, and during the two and a half years which have elapsed since then you have fully justified the promise contained in the phrase. You have not only performed most diligently the duties which properly fall to the head of the Executive, but when death, or absence, or illness has left a vacancy in the official ranks—and there have been many such—you have worked double tides in order that the public service might not suffer. But you have not only worked hard, but you have put the crown on your work by bringing many things about which we were almost in despair to a successful termination. Victoria College has been opened after many years of promises unfulfilled. The important question of the Gap Rock Light, after a long period of fruitless negotiations, was taken in hand and brought to a definite settlement by your Excellency's vigour and determination. The troublesome question of prayer extension in front of the naval and military reservations, a matter involving so many and conflicting interests, has been finally adjusted or put in the way of an early and satisfactory settlement. The general question of reclamation along the foreshore of the Colony, that in other hands would probably have been debated for years, has received from you prompt attention and vigorous treatment, and has been brought to a definite conclusion. The Wong-nei-Chong Valley has been at last filled up and made useful, and the latest suggestions for its improvement have been readily accepted by your Excellency and have been put in train for accomplishment. The constantly recurring difficulties with the Chinese authorities on the subject

of extradition have been faced and not evaded, and an important step has been taken towards putting the matter upon a satisfactory basis. Your Excellency yielded at once to the popular demand for greater publicity in the transactions of the Financial Committee of the Council, and you have at all times shown yourself ready and willing to receive and entertain representations made to you, whether in Council or outside, on all subjects of public interest. You have taken these representations into consideration without needless delay, and what we honour you for most, you have never hesitated to surrender your preconceived views or opinions and to admit that you have been in error when those representations have thrown new light upon the subject or brought fresh argument to bear upon your Excellency's mind. There are still many important questions awaiting settlement. Your Excellency has studied them all more or less, and we hope and pray that you will return to us after a short absence in renewed health and strength to complete the work you have so well begun and reorganise and remodel in many ways the government of the Colony.

"We wish your Excellency, Lady Des Vœux, and your children a very pleasant and prosperous voyage Home, a hearty welcome on your arrival in England, and a speedy restoration to perfect health. We promise your Excellency on your resumption of this government an enthusiastic reception and our loyal and hearty co-operation.

An address from the Chinese was presented by Dr. Ho Kai, who, in his speech said: "On occasions like the present, your Excellency is probably aware that there is often a great deal of conventionality and sometimes almost insincerity, but I can assure you that on the present occasion there is nothing of the kind."

At the end of 1890 Sir William returned to the Colony, but had not been long back before the state of his health reluctantly compelled him to offer his resignation of office, more than two and a half years before the expiration of the ordinary term of six years. "It was, needless to say, a very severe disappointment that a career which had been so far unusually successful should have been thus prematurely brought to a close. It had been for some years," he wrote, "the object of my ambition to obtain the Government of one of the Indian provinces or of the Cape of Good Hope, the latter having special attractions for me on account of its difficulty. But fate ordered otherwise and had to be borne with equanimity."

Before he left Hongkong, however, Sir William had a serious difference with the Legislative Council over the subject of the military contribution, and he wrote of it as "an episode which cast a shadow upon some of my last days in Hongkong." Writing of his departure from the Colony, Sir William said:—

"Wishing to avoid anything like a public demonstration, we did not make known the hour of our departure, and succeeded in getting away in comparative quiet. But a great number of the colonists came on board the *Oceanic* to bid us 'good-bye,' among whom I was glad to see the members of Council who had been most prominent in the recent attacks upon me. And while referring to this subject, I may mention the gratification with which I observed that when their leader, Mr. Whitehead, as President of the Chamber of Commerce, was some years afterwards commenting upon my acceptance of the office of President of the China Association in London, he, after acknowledging his difference with me in the last months of my career in the Colony, used the most complimentary expressions respecting my administration as a whole, and referred to the loss which the Colony had sustained by my premature departure. He thus showed that when the heat of the moment had subsided, the recollection of what I had done for the Colony had outweighed all other feelings."

The Russian Government, it is announced, has handed the Chinese Government 600,000 roubles as compensation for the losses which the Chinese merchants in Vladivostok suffered during the Russo-Japanese War. It is said that the Chinese will get back about 20 per cent. of their loss.

CHARGE AGAINST EXCISE OFFICERS.

INTERESTING EVIDENCE.

The hearing of the charge against four excise officers of assaulting four tallymen on board the s.s. *Cyclops* in August last was continued at the Magistracy on the 10th inst. before Mr. Hallifax. Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the complainants, and Mr. Shenton, from the office of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the defence.

Mr. Gedge asked leave to recall Mr. Wodehouse in order that he might produce to his Worship the police regulations with regard to identifications.

His Worship—The object being?

Mr. Gedge—The object is pretty obvious. The identifications have been found fault with, and are said to be of no use. I shall have certain comments to make regarding the conduct of the police in this matter, and as regards these identifications I shall submit to your Worship that the prosecution have been wholly misled by the police in this matter. I have some very strong remarks to make as to how an identification should be conducted.

His Worship—I don't see that that will make any difference to the identifications.

Mr. Gedge—Your Worship, the police have strict instructions and it is laid down in the police regulations, that certain formalities shall be observed in identifications, and I want to know why those formalities were not observed. I am asking leave to recall a witness for the defence and your Worship has power, at your discretion, to recall any witness.

His Worship—I don't think it will affect the value of the identifications one way or the other if you recall the witness.

Mr. Gedge—It will affect my case materially. You will see when I have the honour to address your Worship where it will affect me.

His Worship—I am prepared to let you call him, but I don't see where it will be of any value. The identification is good to my mind.

Mr. Gedge—I have some comments to make on the way in which it was conducted.

Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Police, was recalled, and was questioned as to regulations governing the discipline of the police force, especially relating to identification.

Was the identification of these men in accordance with the regulations?—No.

Why didn't you act in accordance with regulations?—It was not a police identification.

The Captain Superintendent of Police told you off to conduct that identification?—He told me to attend the identification. I did not consider I was in charge of it.

And that is your only excuse?—That is my reason.

The Captain Superintendent thought it necessary that a police officer should be in attendance?—Yes.

Why did you appeal to me to know whether I wished other people mixed with the excise officers?—I considered you were in charge of the identification.

His Worship—The identification was merely watched by the police?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Gedge—Don't you now think on mature consideration that when the Captain Superintendent of Police ordered you to attend this identification, that as it affected men who were more or less policemen, it would have been better if you had conducted it in the ordinary manner in accordance with police regulations?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Gedge—Why didn't you do so?

Witness—Because I was not in charge.

Mr. Gedge—You thought the solicitor for the defence was in charge. That is the most novel excuse I have heard in this Court.

Questioned by his Worship, witness said he could not remember an identification which had not led to a prosecution. Witness was sure there was no reason given him by the Captain Superintendent of Police when he was ordered to attend the identification. His instructions were conveyed on a slip of paper.

An exciseman gave evidence as to what happened on the *Cyclops*.

Mr. Gedge was cross-examining witness as to any communications he had made respecting the case, and asked if he had made any statement, in a solicitor's office, when

Mr. Shenton objected. What took place between a solicitor and client was privileged.

Mr. Gedge—He is not your client.

Mr. Shenton—That remains to be proved.

Mr. Gedge—You are confusing your witness with your client.

Mr. Shenton—I am not.

Mr. Gedge—I am entitled to put any question I like in cross-examination.

Mr. Shenton—There is no authority for that.

Mr. Gedge—It is done every day.

Mr. Shenton made some reply which was inaudible.

Mr. Gedge—I have more experience in this Court than you have.

Mr. Shenton—Probably you have, but you don't apply it in accordance with the regulations.

His Worship—Do you raise an objection, Mr. Shenton?

Mr. Shenton—I ask my friend to conduct his case in accordance with the law.

His Worship made a remark which was inaudible.

Mr. Gedge—He is interrupting me. I submit I have a right to test the credibility of the witness, but I cannot conduct my case if I am stopped every minute by frivolous objections.

Mr. Shenton—His Worship has ruled against you and—

Mr. Gedge—His Worship has not ruled against me. When he does I am quite willing to submit.

His Worship—I rule against you.

The incident ended, and Mr. Gedge resumed his cross-examination of the witness.

Have you got an entry of the visit in your book?—No; in my mind.

Not in your book?—No; in my mind.

P. S. Wilson spoke to having on 23rd August accompanied a party of excisemen on board the *Janus*, on which one man was arrested for being in possession of opium, after which they proceeded in a sampan to the *Cyclops*. On boarding the steamer he told the quartermaster what he was there for, and asked him to conduct witness to the chief officer. They went to the latter's room, but he was not there, and witness went aft and called into the firemen's quarters. Whilst there he heard police whistles blowing and going up on deck he met an excise officer who told him fighting was going on in the fore part of the ship. Going forward he saw a large crowd at the tallymen's room. There he saw the third defendant leaning against the bunk spitting blood. He appeared to be in a bad condition. The four complainants were present. Witness asked the third defendant in English what the matter was. He pointed to his chest and indicated the marks of blows. He pointed to an iron bar on the ground. The second defendant was also leaning against the bunk and witness spoke to him in Chinese, asking what was wrong. He pointed to the fourth complainant as having assaulted him. Witness turned to the latter and said he would be arrested. The chief officer came along after they were arrested and asked what was the matter. Witness explained to him, and the latter said the policeman could not take those men away from the ship. He said the same to the tallymen. The chief officer then walked away, and witness told the defendants to take the four complainants to the gangway. There they met the captain and other officers. The captain asked what was the matter and witness informed him. The captain said witness had no right to take those men away and he said the same to the tallymen. The captain also said witness had no authority to board his vessel. Witness drew his attention to his uniform and said he was a sergeant of police. He told the captain that according to the port regulations police and excise officers could board any vessel at any time. During the conversation a large crowd of coolies had gathered, and fearing further trouble witness asked the captain to stand aside in order that he might take the men down to the sampan.

Mr. Shenton—Did you push him aside?

Witness—No. Continuing, he said that while he was standing on the gangway a European arrived and questioned the captain

as to what had happened. Witness saw the men on to the sampan and then went aft and arrested one man for being in possession of opium. He put him on board the sampan also. At the bottom of the gangway he met the second officer standing on the lighter. The latter asked permission to go ashore with witness in the sampan. Witness agreed. Nearing the shore the second officer told witness he had been sent by the captain to see what became of the four complainants. They were taken to the Central Police Station, where they were charged. The second and third defendants had to be assisted into the sampan by other excise officers. The men arrested were held by the queue. There was not much resistance. How long did they wear their badges?—All the time to my knowledge.

His Worship—Up to the station?—Yes.

As to the force used in arresting these men can you give an idea of it?—Owing to the conduct of the captain and the chief officer the four tallymen almost refused to leave the vessel.

Was any violence used—None at all.

Any resistance on their part?—Scarcely any. Very little violence was necessary.

Cross-examined—Is this the first time you have been with this gang of ten men?—I can't say.

You don't know whether or not you have been with this gang?—With some of them.

Do you know all the gang personally by sight?—No.

How many of the gang do you know by sight to as to identify afterwards?—About half of them.

Of course, you know them all now. You could identify them?—Yes, since the occurrence.

Do you know their names?—No.

At this stage Mr. Gedge stated that he intended to ask the witness a question on which his Worship had already ruled the speaker out. (to witness)—Did you make a statement in writing to the Captain Superintendent of Police concerning the affair on the *Cyclops*?

Mr. Shenton—To that I object.

Mr. Gedge—Now, you be quiet.

Mr. Shenton—I am entitled to object, and I do.

Mr. Gedge (to witness)—Have you made a statement to the Captain Superintendent since August 28th?

Mr. Shenton—Inside information on the part of the police is always ruled out as a matter of policy.

Mr. Gedge—I will ask your Worship to take down my friend's contention, as I shall have an argument to submit on it. My friend says, and I take it he is talking for the police, that information made by the police is privileged on account of policy.

His Worship—You are entitled to ask if he has made a report.

Mr. Gedge—I am going to ask for the report. I want this taken down in your Worship's notes, with a view to proceedings which will perhaps be taken in the Supreme Court.

His Worship—I am not going to put down anything except that I rule your objection out.

Mr. Gedge—If your Worship pleases, with submission, I am entitled to have it down in your notes, so that hereafter if necessary, in case of appeal it can be argued.

His Worship—I have noted down that permission is refused.

Mr. Gedge—Your Worship refuses to put down what my friend contended?

His Worship—Yes.

Mr. Gedge quoted Archibold on cross-examination as to documents, and contended that he was entitled to cross-examine as to previous statements made by the witness in writing.

Mr. Shenton stated that the authority quoted referred to judicial proceedings.

His Worship—It will be for you to appeal on this point, Mr. Gedge. I refuse permission now.

Mr. Gedge contended that he was entitled to have discovery of this document just as much as he was entitled to have discovery of documents in a civil action.

Mr. Shenton pointed out that the document was a privileged document.

Mr. Gedge submitted that no evidence given by a sergeant of police could be privileged, therefore the written statement he had made was not privileged. It would make a big

difference in the cross-examination of the witness if the speaker was allowed to have the statement made to the Captain Superintendent of Police before him. He asked his Worship to adjourn the case for fuller consideration of the law, or if he pleased to continue, to reserve his decision on the point.

His Worship—Very good, Mr. Gedge, you can omit this question to-day.

The cross-examination of the witness was continued:

When you left the sampan, did you take particular notice of the men who accompanied you on to the *Cyclops*?—I took notice of the man who was left behind.

Did you tell the excise officers in the sampan that you were going to see the Captain of the ship?—I told them I was going to see the officer.

Who did you see on board first?—The quartermaster.

Did you ask him where the captain was?—I asked him where the chief officer was, and he took me to the officer's room, but the chief officer was not there.

Where did you find him?—I did not find him till the fight took place in the tallymen's quarters.

Did you see an excise officer arrest a man on the deck?—No.

Do you know if such a thing took place?—No.

Did the chief officer remonstrate with you as to the way the tallymen were being treated?—No.

Did not he tell you that they were being very cruelly treated?—I can't remember.

Did you give him back a short answer?—Not to my knowledge.

Did you say to him that if he did not look out you would lock him up?

Mr. Shenton—That is not in dispute.

His Worship—I don't think you can cross-examine outside your own prosecution.

Mr. Gedge—I submit I can. You can ask any conceivable question in cross-examination.

Mr. Shenton—My friend did not seem to think so when I was cross-examining his witnesses.

Mr. Gedge—This curtailment of cross-examination has never happened before. (To the witness)—Did you say you would lock him up?—No.

Do you mean to tell me he did not remonstrate with you as to the way the men were being treated?—Both the captain and chief officer spoke about the men being held by their queues. They said something about it being a funny way to take men off a ship.

No, come, didn't they say that the men were being cruelly held by their queues?—They remarked on the cruel way in which the men's queues were held.

Were the captain and chief officer talking with you at the same time?—Not at the same time, but one after the other.

Did the captain not ask you by what authority this queer treatment was going on?—I can't remember the exact words.

Now perhaps you can remember telling the captain to read his port regulations?—Yes.

And that the captain or one of his sixty coolies would tell you who you were, is that right?—When the captain disputed my authority, and said that anyone could wear this uniform, I told him that anyone of the coolies about would know better than that.

Do you really say that the master of a ship thought a sergeant in uniform had not any authority?—This captain attributed no authority to a sergeant in uniform.

You say you did not push the captain aside?—No, there was no occasion. In that case I should have arrested him.

What would you have arrested him for?—Obstruction.

You don't allege, do you, that the captain in any way obstructed you?—His demeanour practically amounted to obstruction.

Does that apply to Mr. Fittes, the chief officer, as well?—Yes, and to Captain Aitken.

What did Captain Aitken say?—He told the captain I had no authority to board his ship, and that he would see about it later on.

I want you, please, to tell the Court what was the obstructive demeanour of the captain and chief officer that you objected to?—The captain stood on the gangway and said before the tallymen that I had no authority to board

his ship, that my uniform was nothing to go by, as anyone could wear a uniform, and that I had no right to arrest these four men.

Do you mean to tell me that the captain really insinuated that you were masquerading in police uniform?—According to the words he used.

When Captain Aitken reached the top of the gangway didn't he ask you if you were going to stop this brutality?—Not to my knowledge.

Didn't you tell him in reply that if he interfered it would be at his peril?—I don't remember.

In the cabin did you see the third defendant hit the third complainant on the face?—No, he was too weak to hit anyone.

Have you made a statement in writing to the solicitor for the defence?

Mr. Shenton objected.

Mr. Gedge—Your Worship won't let me have an answer?

His Worship—No.

Mr. Gedge—Then I would ask your Worship to order the production of the statement made to the Captain Superintendent of Police, and the statement made to the solicitor for the defence.

His Worship—We have not got it that there was any such report made to the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Gedge—Because your Worship won't allow the question to be answered?

His Worship—No, exactly.

The further hearing was adjourned.

Tuesday, 14th December.

Mr. Shenton said he had had an opportunity of seeing the statement made by Sergeant Wilson to Captain Badeley, and he had seen Capt. Badeley, who had no objection to the document being produced.

His Worship (Mr. Hallifax)—Then you withdraw your objection to it going in?

Mr. Shenton—Yes.

Mr. Gedge added that he had called for it, and he was entitled to have inspection of the document and cross-examine upon it.

Discussion then took place as to whether the document should be put in.

Mr. Gedge said he wished to cross-examine Sergt. Wilson upon the document.

Mr. Shenton contended that it must go in and be read.

Mr. Gedge differed. If he put it in he made it part of his case.

His Worship thought the document must go in if Mr. Gedge wished to contradict the witness' statement by what he had written.

Mr. Gedge said he did not know whether the questions he wished to put would be contradictory or explanatory.

Mr. Shenton then said he would waive his objections. He did not mind if the questions were put to the witness without the report being read.

Mr. Gedge then questioned witness, who said at the time he wrote his report he did not know the names of the men whom he said had been assaulted. He knew they were excise officers. He learned their names afterwards in the charge-room.

Mr. Gedge said his friend had not acted fairly in putting in that document which his Worship had read.

His Worship replied that the Court could call for any document.

Mr. Shenton suggested that he should prove that a copy of the port regulations was handed to the captain.

His Worship said it was unnecessary.

This concluded the case.

Mr. Shenton then addressed the Court. The four defendants stood charged that they as excise officers did commit an assault on the 11th August upon the four complainants. At the outset he indicated that the burden of proof devolved upon his friend, who had to do more than prove assault: he had to prove that the assault was committed by the four defendants. With regard to his friend's view that that was an inquiry, he would like his Worship to make it clear that such a view was erroneous. The only reason the four defendants were in Court was that they should be tried for assault, and anything else done outside could not be considered. Proceeding, he referred to the matter from the point of view of the Opium Ordinance, and pointed out that an excise officer was entitled to go without permission on board any ship in the

harbour and search for opium, and should he find anyone in possession of opium he was entitled to arrest that man and convey him to the Police Station. It was unnecessary for such an officer to ask the permission of the captain, and there was no authority given to the captain to interfere in any way. He did not think they need go into the question of excise officers being required to wear their badges. The police sergeant was in uniform, and the excisemen wore their badges. Mr. Shenton then dealt with discrepancies in the evidence for the prosecution, and criticised the action of Captain Harris in interfering with the excise officers on board his vessel. He wished to draw attention to the conduct of Captain Harris, who deliberately insulted the police sergeant, telling him that his uniform went for nothing. Naturally the sergeant referred him to the police regulations and told him any one of the sixty coolies on board could tell him better than that. The impression he gave was that the police sergeant was masquerading in police uniform. He asked his Worship if that was proper conduct for a man who was given the command of a ship like the *Cyclops*. Mr. Shenton then commented on the fact that the summonses against the defendants were not issued until three months after the affair took place. With regard to the identification the police made the necessary preparations—

His Worship—I don't think it is necessary to labour this question of identification. I think the means provided were sufficient for identification.

Mr. Shenton—I want to point out that nine men were produced by the prosecution and all were on board the *Cyclops* on the date mentioned. By a coincidence they picked out one man who was not on the boat at all.

Mr. Gedge—So you say.

His Worship—Too much has been said of the identification.

Mr. Shenton—I think it is a subject for serious comment, because it did not give the defendants a fair chance.

Mr. Gedge, in submitting the case for the prosecution, said he would prove that there had been brutality by those four excise officers towards the tallymen on the *Cyclops*; Chinese brutality against Chinese. They did not charge the Europeans with it. All the European sergeant did was to look on. What they said was that there had been brutality in the arrest of those four men. Proceeding, he said that any man—black or white or yellow—would naturally object to his castle being broken into without rhyme or reason, and that was what took place in that instance. None of those men, he submitted, wore badges. The Chinaman was a notorious casual being, and in this instance he had forgotten his badge. Consequently there was a row and a fight when the quarters were searched. In conclusion, he submitted that the police should have conducted the identification in the ordinary proper way.

His Worship—If you have any complaints you must make them to another quarter.

Mr. Gedge—I am not making complaints. What I say is that the police were backing up the excise officers, and when the identification took place they ought to have insisted upon it being done in the ordinary way and not have laughed in their sleeves and said this is not proper.

Mr. Shenton objected to those remarks.

His Worship—It is fair comment on the evidence.

Mr. Gedge said it was like comic opera to expect the solicitor for the defence to be in charge of the identification. The police should have been absolutely impartial to both sides, and at the time the prosecution should have been told that the identification was not in accordance with the usual regulations. He submitted that so far as it went the men had been properly identified and he asked for a conviction.

His Worship discharged all four defendants.

Mr. Shenton asked for costs, but his Worship declined to accede to the request.

The term for which Lord Li Ching-Tong was appointed Minister to London expires next year, and a Chinese contemporary says the Junior Deputy Vice-President of the Waiwupu, Tsao Ju Lin, will be appointed to succeed him.

HONGKONG IN 1908.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT.

The Report of H.E. the Governor on Hongkong for the year 1908 was presented to Parliament in October. Most of the information it contains had already been published, but the following excerpts will be found interesting:—

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

This section of the Colony's industry was carried on under adverse circumstances. The great trade depression from which the local shipping suffered severely made its influence felt in this industry, and the amount of new construction turned out by the local companies was not very encouraging.

In regard to war vessels, the active operation of the floating docks at Tsingtau and at Olongapo in the Philippine Islands, installed by the German and United States Governments, respectively, was responsible for the continuance of a very large falling off in the docking and repairing of foreign war vessels, the tonnages dealt with by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock for 1906, 1907, and 1908 being 64,318, 3,692, and 3,652, respectively, with apparently no prospect of future improvement. The tonnage of British war vessels docked was on a level with those prevailing during the year immediately preceding.

Work in the nature of large repairs to steamers was scarce during the earlier half of the year. The typhoon in July, however, contributed to a large extent towards the improvement experienced in this direction during the latter half.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The considerable decrease in revenue from sales of Crown land may be partly attributed to the fact that in the City of Victoria there is little available building land left, and partly to the fact that at the present time there is no great demand for new houses in the city and in Old Kowloon, a considerable number of Chinese shops and dwelling-houses being now unlet. The general depression in the land market, which commenced a few years ago, still continues, and capitalists who invested in land and buildings at the high prices ruling some ten years ago have suffered very considerable losses; in many cases properties have been sold by mortgagees at far less than the amount of their securities, while many other mortgagees are holding on, awaiting a more favourable opportunity for realising their securities. There is, however, a very fair demand in the city for property at reduced prices. There appears to be no lack of money in the Colony, and a considerable number of transactions in land have taken place during the past year.

There have been a large number of small lots of Crown land for native dwellings and industries in the New Territories, and the demand for these is likely to further increase, as the native population now realise the reasonable terms upon which Crown land can be obtained and the security of tenure afforded by holding under a long lease direct from the Crown.

Three areas of over 40 acres of land at Tai O in the Island of Lan Tao for use as salt pans were put up for auction on an 18 years' lease at the upset rental of \$15 per acre per annum, and after considerable competition one lot of over 21 acres realised as much as \$170 per acre per annum, which shows that salt pans in a good locality are apparently very remunerative undertakings. During the year a second area of one square mile in the New Territories was leased to Sir Paul Chater for 75 years for mining purposes.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTION.

Throughout the year negotiations were in progress between this Government and the Chinese authorities, both at Canton and at Peking, on the subject of the loss and inconvenience caused by the depreciation of the Colony's subsidiary currency owing to the over-issue of small coins by the Mint in Canton, which circulate freely in the Colony at a heavy discount and cause the legal (subsidiary) currency to fall to a nearly corresponding discount. This Government adopted the expedient of withdrawing from circulation \$780,000 of subsidiary silver coin and \$30,000 of bronze coin. These coins were shipped to London, where they were melted down and sold as bullion for

\$60,501 1s. 4d. and £1,190 1s. respectively. Up to the close of the year the negotiations with the Chinese Government had not produced any satisfactory result. The average annual loss to revenue from this source as calculated for the last three years has been \$184,204, including the loss by demonetization of unissued stocks. The average loss on the same period, which would have been incurred by payment of discount instead of demonetization, was \$26,777.

CANTON FACTORY DAYS.

London, November 17th.

The China Society opened its winter session at the Caxton Hall on Thursday evening with a lecture by Mr. H. B. Morse on "Canton Factory Days." There was a good assembly of members, to whom the ever-genial secretary, Mr. Byron Brennan, announced a regular fortnightly series of lectures for the next six months, in addition to a dinner and a conversation.

Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Assistant Judge of Shanghai, was in the chair, and he briefly introduced the lecturer as one who was well fitted by learning, sympathy and insight to address them on the subject he had selected.

Mr. Morse described the opening of commercial relations between Europeans and Orientals at Macao and Canton. First came the Portuguese in 1517, then the Spaniards settled at Manila. Keeping close guard over the sequence of his historical narrative, he recalled how the Dutch attacked Macao in 1622 and how the British came also into competition with the Portuguese in the East in 1635. By the end of the seventeenth century foreign trade in China had gravitated to Canton and in 1715 the East India Company decided to enter into the China trade on a definite basis. They had their difficulties, however, for the exactions of the Chinese on the entrance of ships to their ports became so exorbitant that a guild called the Co-Hong was formed to put prices and transactions on a better footing. No good results, however, followed, and the exactions increased until foreign merchants threatened to go elsewhere, whereupon in 1757 China replied to the protests by declaring that Canton should be the only port at which foreigners could trade. It was not till 1780 that the Merchant Guild of Canton was firmly established, when owing to the number of disputes that arose, the Co-Hong was again called into being to govern foreign trade. On many occasions there was friction because the Chinese officials refused the demand of Europeans to present petitions in person. The lecturer had had many years' experience with Chinese officials, and he had been struck by their diplomatic ability and especially by their foresight. One of their favourite means of maintaining order and keeping foreigners under due subjection was to refuse to have direct communication with them. All communications had to go through the Hong merchants. Thus they saw these Chinese statesmen, never having heard of Suffragettes—(laughter)—foreseeing that if they once gave way on the subject of receiving petitions from the petitioners' own hands they would constantly be having these foreign merchants coming to their doorsteps to worry them. By 1832 the factory system had started in Canton, and the lecturer gave in detail how the Chinese confined the foreigners to their factory compounds. They were not to ride in sedan chairs, but must walk: a visit to the flower gardens on the other side of the river was only permitted on three days a week, and then only in small parties conducted by a guide, who was responsible for their good behaviour. In addition to these restrictions they were not allowed to go into the city proper, though they could go as far as a gateway in the wall. Not only had the merchants to put up with these social restrictions, but trade was restricted in many ways. The prices for tea and silk were fixed by the Chinese, as were also the imports, and the East India Company declared they lost a million and a half sterling in a comparatively few years through these impositions. It was really a case of the Chinese fixing their own terms and the foreigner having to accept them. For instance, in 1815 one ship of about five hundred tons burden had to pay 3,278 taels, and another ship of a similar sort was mulcted in charges of 3,315

taels. Even in 1831 a ship of 420 tons paid 2,600 taels in dues, and in 1840 a nine hundred ton vessel paid the enormous charge of 6,000 taels. What were the exactions on trade ashore could hardly be estimated, for the records had been burned, but it was clear from general observations that were available that the Chinese monopolists had their own way and the Europeans worked under a veritable load of restrictions. The European traders knew they were being robbed often in an arbitrary and unauthorised manner, but they could get no redress. Yet in spite of it all they prospered—a specie basis for the business transactions was gradually introduced and a flow of silver went outwards in growing volume. In the year 1834 the monopoly of the East India Company came to an end, and with its abolition came the last of the "factory days in Canton." A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer concluded the meeting.

SERIOUS FIRE ON "PRINZ LUDWIG."

A fire which caused considerable damage and no little inconvenience occurred on board the Norddeutscher Lloyd mail steamer *Prinz Ludwig* on Dec. 14. The outbreak was not discovered until the steamer, which came from the North, was approaching the wharf at 7.30 a.m. Smoke was then seen issuing from the fore part of the hold and the signals for assistance were at once made. They were promptly responded to by the Government fire float coming alongside in a few minutes, followed a little later by the naval fireboat *Cherub*. Shortly after eight o'clock the Fire Brigade arrived under Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, assistant deputy superintendent of police.

Both the fire float and the *Cherub* commenced operations by pumping water into the No. 3 hold, which was filled with Japanese silk and a large quantity of Japanese curios. The material was, of course, very inflammable and the conflagration would have reached serious dimensions had it not been for the prompt efforts made to cope with the fire. After water had been pumped into the hold for about three hours it was decided to suspend these operations, and the ship's smoke helmets were then brought into use. Two of the crew donned these and went down into the hold, but they could do nothing. The firemen themselves were handicapped through not being equipped with such helmets, and owing to the dense smoke they had to restrict their operations to the deck, whence it was difficult to play on the flames. As the *Prinz Ludwig* had a decided list to port it was deemed inadvisable to flood the hold, as fears were entertained that she might capsize. Her pumps were unable to take out the water as it was pumped in and the flooding of the hold had to be abandoned and other means of fighting the flames tried. From the deck it was difficult to get the hose to play on the flames, but finally hose were placed in position underneath by members of the crew descending and when they emerged the water was turned on. Success attended this and by one o'clock or shortly afterwards it was reported that no more flames were seen. However, the material continued to smoulder and dense smoke issued for two or three hours afterwards. By two o'clock the steamer had recovered her balance and proceeded from the vicinity of the wharf to nearer Stonecutters, where a sandy spit afforded greater security for handling the ship in its awkward plight. Arrived here, the hold was flooded and as the water was pumped in it was taken out almost immediately by the appliances alongside brought from Kowloon Dock. The result was that about four o'clock the fire was completely extinguished and the firemen were able to leave the steamer.

The damage done must be very extensive. Practically the whole of the contents of No. 3 hold is destroyed, but the cargo in other holds must have suffered from the smoke and the water.

The steamer's departure will be materially delayed. Not only will the cargo itself have to be removed but the ship will have to be surveyed before she can leave port so that her stay here is likely to be extended several days.

A census of the population of Macao and its dependencies will be taken at midnight on February 9th. The last census was taken in 1896.

"BITS OF CHINA."

An official has petitioned the Board of Education to draw up regulations for inflicting fines on the foot-binding females of the Empire.

The President of the Censorate has proposed to install a letter box on the outside door of that department in order that people with suggestions may deposit their ideas in writing therein.

The Viceroy in Canton is reported to have impeached a number of employees in the service of the Canton-Hankow Railway for committing malpractices and accepting money by false pretences, etc. The Board of Posts and Communications has been ordered to investigate the matter.

An official report gives Kwangtung's revenue from all forms of gambling as \$6,641,444.598 a year, made up as follows:—\$4,196,198.15 from *fan tan*, \$2,354,857.133 from *Chi Po* and *Shan* lotteries, and \$50,389.2 from ordinary lotteries.

The State Council has proposed to confer on all Viceroys and Governors of the various provinces the extra title of "High Commissioner for Deliberation of Government Affairs." All the Ministers of the Grand Council have endorsed this proposal except a certain Grand Secretary.

Following an idea that met with no success in Korea an Association has been inaugurated at Tientsin with the object of raising subscriptions to pay off the Empire's debt to foreign countries. The Prince Regent has proposed to confer a rank of 3rd or 4th grade of the Grand Court on the promoter of the Association.

H. E. Lu Chuan-ling, member of the Grand Council, has suggested that negotiations of diplomatic questions in Manchuria between China and Japan should not be conducted in secret, because misunderstandings often happen through secrecy between foreigners and Chinese. This suggestion is not approved of by the other members of the Grand Council.

The Prince Regent is reported to have personally memorialized the Empress Dowager on the following questions, namely, the readjustment of the finances of the Imperial household next spring, the appropriation of a certain portion of the Emperor's private money for the projected reforms, and the fixing of the amount of the Emperor's monthly expenses pending the settlement of the whole question of the annual disbursements in the Palace.

The Board of Finance some time ago requested the provincial authorities to report on the copper currency and to state whether there were too many coins of this metal in circulation. A Northern contemporary now states that the provincial authorities have reported that these coins are most convenient to trade and there is always a great demand for them. Instead of being too numerous there are not enough to supply the demand. Besides, a lot of foreign cents have come into the country lately, and permission should be given to continue minting Chinese copper money so as to keep out the foreign coins.

The authorities at Peking, says a Northern contemporary, seem to be much alarmed at the report that the foreign Powers are going to propose at the coming Hague Conference that China's finances be controlled by foreigners. The Prince Regent is said to have enquired of Grand Councillors Shih Hsu and Na Tung and Prince Tsai Tse whether they could suggest anything to prevent this danger. The two latter are reported to have replied that though it was important to re-adjust the national finances yet the effort would be of no avail without the help of the people. As the people of several provinces had proposed to raise funds to pay off the foreign debts, advantage should be taken of this frame of mind to induce the other provinces to follow suit, and they suggested that the best way to do it was to hasten the establishment of a Parliament. His Imperial Highness, the report adds, was rather pleased with this proposal.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, December 10th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

BERTELONE'S AFFAIRS.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for W. S. Bailey and Co. in an action brought against G. Bertelone for \$325, and said that since the issue of the writ a petition in bankruptcy had been filed and it would come on in Bankruptcy Jurisdiction on the 16th inst. He thought the matter had better be adjourned pending the result of the petition.

His Lordship agreed.

There was another action against the same defendant at the instance of W. Jack and Co., who claimed for \$124.60.

NO COMPROMISE.

S. Greenfield sued P. Goldring for \$55 for supplying certain chairs. Mr. Leo d'Almada appeared for the defendant, and informed his Lordship that defendant had offered \$37.

His Lordship—Do you accept that?

Plaintiff—No.

The hearing was then fixed for next Friday.

CLAIM BY A GOVERNESS.

Miss Eve Engledow sued Mrs. Lydia Prior, of 6, Victoria View, Kowloon, for \$443.50, damages for alleged wrongful dismissal from her position as governess to defendant. Mr. Pagett Hett appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. S. Dixon, from the office of Mr. R. Harding, appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Hett said the defendant had filed an application for security for costs and in support of that Mr. Dixon had filed an affidavit. He (Mr. Hett) wished to apply that that affidavit should be struck out. He strongly objected to security for costs.

His Lordship—It is the usual course.

Mr. Hett—Not, my lord, if the plaintiff has been driven out of jurisdiction by withholding money due to her.

His Lordship—Rightfully or wrongfully?

Mr. Hett—I suppose my friend would say rightfully. Continuing, he said that defendant had no right to put on the affidavit that defendant made an offer without prejudice.

His Lordship did not think that defendant was entitled to do so.

Mr. Hett added that there were other paragraphs which he wished to be struck out.

His Lordship said that Mr. Hett had better come to him in chambers.

Mr. Hett said if defendant succeeded his client would be in Court and defendant could put her in prison.

His Lordship suggested that if the case were going to be strenuously fought pleadings had better be ordered.

Mr. Hett—We have no money, but defendant has.

Mr. Dixon—I don't think it is a case for pleadings, my lord.

The hearing was fixed for Monday week.

Monday, December 13th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. REES DAVIES, K. C. (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ACTION FOR LIBEL.

The case was continued in which the President in Hongkong of the Basil Evangelical Missionary Society proceeded against the *Hongkong Sheung Po Co., Ltd.*, of 13, Connaught Road Central, and Hong Wa, editor and publisher, to recover the sum of \$10,000 damages for an alleged libellous article which was printed in the *Sheung Po*.

The case, which was heard before a special jury, arises out of a report sent to the defendant newspaper from the interior of China relating to an operation which was said to have been performed on a woman in one of the Mission hospitals. The jury empanelled contained Messrs. M. S. Northcote (foreman), A. Babington, W. A. Dowley, A. Bryer, A. J. David, H. P. White and A. G. Gordon.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, represented the defendants.

The statement of claim set forth that the defendants had falsely and maliciously printed and published, or caused to be procured and printed and published, an article which on being translated was to the effect that the plaintiff grossly maltreated a woman who was with child.

In the defence filed the defendants denied that the words of the article in question had the signification assigned to them in the statement of claim. The words were incapable of any defamatory meaning.

Mr. Slade, in opening, stated that the Basil Mission, of which the plaintiff was president in Hongkong, was incorporated by an Ordinance, and carried on missionary work among the Hakkas in the Province of Kwangtung and in the neighbouring provinces. The mission had some 17 stations, and among them a station at Ho Yuen, where, last year, they were about to build a hospital. The hospital at the time the article complained of appeared was in process of being built, and in the station of Ho Yuen the Mission had a missionary and a doctor named, respectively, Sautter and Vortisch. Dr. Vortisch had been there for some time engaged in trying to cure all who came to him for assistance, and everything was going on as smoothly as could be. The Mission had been promised large subscriptions for the erection of the hospital, and to meet the wishes of the Chinese they had made special arrangements by enlarging the proposed plans for the building of special wards. This happy state of affairs was put a rude stop to by the article which was published in the defendant paper. The defence challenged plaintiff's translation of that article, but he was glad to say it was only in comparatively few parts, therefore the jury would not have to listen to very much discussion as to the meaning of Chinese words, and he believed the plaintiff would easily satisfy them that his translation was the correct one. The defence said that this was merely a description of an actual surgical operation performed, and published with no *mala fides*, but simply as an article of news. He presumed that the editor of the defendant paper was a Chinese scholar. The words in the heading of the article were a verbatim quotation from one of the Chinese classics, and the four characters together formed a phrase which was known throughout the length and breadth of China as one of the most infamous charges made against one of the early emperors of that nation. The five Chinese classics—one might call them the Bible of Confucianism—were known to Chinese better than our Bible. Probably the story from which these words were taken was the story of one of the most execrated emperors who ever sat upon the throne of China. The words used in regard to that emperor's act were the very characters put at the head of the article complained of, and those words did not refer to a proper medical operation, but imputed an abominable crime. With regard to the rest of the article, the defendants said that the doctor collected the bowels of the woman, and then hid her body in a stream, obviously to conceal what he had done. The President of the Mission was naturally very frightened on account of that article, for he feared there might be a repetition of the Limchow massacre from the character of the words used against the foreigners to stir up hatred, and to incite to massacre and pillage. The missionary and doctor from this station would tell the jury that the story was founded to an extent on fact, but the real facts were absolutely innocent, and it was the defendants who had dressed out the facts and added malicious falsehood. They had, in fact, added to the whole story for the purpose of bringing down the hatred of the people upon this Mission. On December 13th Dr. Vortisch was asked to go to see a woman with child in the native city. He found the sick woman in a precarious state, and had her taken to the hospital. After administering an anesthetic and making an examination he found that the child was dead, and on endeavouring to remove it found he was unable to do so without an operation. But no operation was performed; there was no cutting of any kind, sort or description. While the doctor was trying to deliver the

child the woman's husband, the doctor's wife and several Chinese assistants were present. Shortly after the doctor left the ward he was summoned back, and found the woman dying. As soon as she was dead the husband was informed, and was asked to make preparations to bury his wife. But he would do nothing, so the hospital at its own expense had the body placed in a coffin for the purpose of burial. Before the woman was coffined up Dr. Vortisch made her husband, who was blind, put his hand over his wife's body to satisfy himself that no operation had been performed. The woman was properly buried in a Chinese cemetery, where Chinese were buried by their own people, and the event then practically passed out of the minds of people in Ho Yuen. They thought no more about it until in due course this venomous article reached them. After this the people did come out and look along the creek to see whether they could find the body hidden, and the jurors would not be surprised to hear that the flow of subscriptions from Chinese sources stopped absolutely. The members of the Mission were held in contempt, and the Mission itself was despised and condemned in consequence of this article. Ho Yuen was some 150 miles distant from Canton by the East river. When the President of the Mission here saw the article he called on the people connected with the paper and told them that they must do what they could to minimise its evil effect. The next step taken was to try to come to terms with the newspaper, and for that purpose a meeting was held before the German Consul, at which representatives of both parties were present. It was suggested that if the defendants would pay \$4,000, put in advertisements for a period of time and a complete apology, no further action would be taken. The defendants refused to apologise and to pay the very moderate sum asked, but made an offer which was inadequate. It was now for the jury to say what the defendants ought to offer, and what the plaintiffs ought to receive for this venomous story which had been set on foot without the slightest justification.

His Lordship—I see you are suing in your corporate capacity, Mr. Slade?

Mr. Slade—Yes, it is an injury to the Mission at large.

Evidence was then taken.

With regard to a question which arose as to apology.

Mr. Slade referred his Lordship to section 4 of the Defamation and Libel Ordinance, of 1887.

His Lordship—They have got their Common Law right by apology and pleadings.

Mr. Slade—I could not strike it out of their pleadings, but it does not operate as a defence.

His Lordship—It operates in mitigation of damages.

Mr. Slade—I quite agree with your Lordship's view there.

The foreman of the jury asked what the annual subscriptions to the Mission from Chinese sources were for the years 1907, 1908 and 1909.

His Lordship—I will have the witness recalled to answer.

Mr. Slade—The next witness called can answer. Our evidence will be that on the subscriptions to these hospitals there has been a dead loss of \$4,000. We have not got figures of the general subscriptions.

Sir Henry Berkeley, referring to the previous questions, said he relied on the case of Boosey against Wood, reported in section 34 of the *Law Journal*. There were two ways of taking advantage of what could be called apology: the statutory defence that you apologised and paid money into Court, or it was possible to plead apology accepted, which was tantamount to accord and satisfaction. There was a valuable consideration in the expense of publication.

His Lordship—It would be more convenient to argue this matter at the close of the plaintiffs' case.

Mr. Slade—I would point out that accord and satisfaction is not pleaded.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes, it is.

Mr. Slade—No, it isn't.

Sir Henry Berkeley—We'll deal with it when the time comes.

His Lordship—As I understand it, they are going to plead accord and satisfaction.

Mr. Slade—If they have not pleaded it, they cannot set it up now.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I have.

Mr. Slade—Well, quote a sentence.

Sir Henry Berkeley—When the time comes The hearing was adjourned.

Tuesday, December 14th.

The last witness called in support of plaintiff's case was giving evidence with reference to subscriptions when

Sir Henry Berkeley submitted that the loss of subscriptions, if it really occurred, was special damage which should have been laid.

His Lordship—You did not take that point yesterday, Sir Henry.

Mr. Slade—It is not special damage. It is evidence of general damage.

His Lordship—Loss of subscriptions would be general damage.

Mr. Slade—I presume my general list diminished in consequence of this article. I cannot prove it, but there is a strong inference. The law is plain that I may give general evidence of damage.

His Lordship—Loss of specific subscriptions certainly comes within the category of special damages.

Mr. Slade—I don't prove loss of special subscriptions.

Sir Henry Berkeley—My objection is confined to specific subscriptions, so you can go on.

His Lordship—I think the jury, in any event, in assessing damages, if they are going to give damages, will take that into consideration.

Mr. Slade—Your Lordship will see that my object is to prove that this article had an effect detrimental to the Mission a long way away from Ho Yuen.

After Dr. Vortisch had been recalled to give further evidence regarding hospital charges, the case for the plaintiff closed.

Sir Henry Berkeley, in opening the defence, submitted that the plaintiff had disclosed no case that his Lordship could leave to the jury, and that under the powers in sections 174-175 of the Code of Civil Procedure his Lordship might and should dismiss the action here and now. In this case it was his Lordship's duty to withdraw the case from the jury and dismiss it, because the plaintiff, the President in Hongkong (the word "in" was important) of the Basil Mission, namely, Mr. Vömel, had not proved that any libel had been published of and concerning him.

Mr. Slade—The plaintiff is "it," not "him."

Sir Henry Berkeley said he would show that the plaintiff was "him." There was no libel proved against the Corporation. Such libel, as he would admit for the sake of argument had been proved, was against two individuals, Dr. Vortisch and Mr. Sautter, who had had what amounted to an imputation of murder in its gravest view, or in the least harmful view an imputation of malpractice in the performance of their duties at the hospital charged against them personally. Counsel submitted that the libel did not refer to the plaintiff, and therefore was no personal right of action in him.

His Lordship—When you say the plaintiff you mean the plaintiff Corporation?

Sir Henry Berkeley said that that was so. The article did not refer to the plaintiff corporation, and there was no personal right of action in him or it. A corporation had the right of action in respect of a libel to its property, but there was no libel here against the corporation in respect of its property. The imputation here was to persons. It had been laid down that a corporation could not sue for libel or commit murder. The charge here, if anything at all, was a charge of assault upon this woman by the two missionaries at Ho Yuen, and indeed it might be pushed to a charge of murder against Dr. Vortisch. The Corporation could not commit an assault, as it was only an abstract body and had no personality, and it could not complain of being referred to as "it."

Mr. Slade—It cannot be guilty of malice.

Sir Henry Berkeley—That has been held to be possible, but it is not the point here. It has been held that an action for libel will not be at the suit of a corporation in respect of such charges as assault.

Mr. Slade—I beg your pardon, there is no such case.

Sir Henry Berkeley said it had been held in the case of the Mayor of Manchester against Williams that a corporation could not sue in connection with a charge of corruption. Counsel quoted the case, and contended that if his friend's contention was right the mayor and corporation could have brought that action, but the *ratio decidendi* there was that the corporation as a whole could not be guilty of corrupt practices. His next point was that even supposing this Corporation—the President in Hongkong of the Basil Mission—could bring an action in respect of any such charge as this in relation to its property, the hospital at Ho Yuen was not the property of the President in Hongkong of the Basil Mission.

His Lordship—It is the property of the Corporation.

Sir Henry Berkeley—No, it is the property of the Mission in Basil. The evidence is that the people in Ho Yuen are under the control and management of the Mission in Basil; that the money for completing the hospital was supplied by the Mission in Basil; and that Dr. Vortisch has in time to come to account to the Mission in Basil for money he collects by way of subscriptions.

His Lordship—As regards the point that the property is not the property of the Corporation, I should like to hear what Mr. Sautter says on that.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Mr. Sautter stated that he got an advance from the head Mission at Basil, and that he hoped in time to collect subscriptions from the pious and charitable people to refund that sum.

His Lordship—As regards this point, supposing it is a branch of the Basil Mission Society, do you contend that the Society here would not be entitled to sue in respect of it?

Sir Henry Berkeley—It would not.

His Lordship—Apart from the other question altogether?

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that even if this was a libel in respect of which the hospital could sue, this hospital had nothing whatever to do with Mr. Vömel, and it was given in evidence that fees collected for operations were accounted for to the Basil Mission in Switzerland. Another point quite separate and independent was that the plaintiff was not entitled to sue; he was barred of his action by having accepted apology, as far as he was concerned, from the defendants.

His Lordship—Your pleading does not amount to a plea of accord and satisfaction.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I submit it does. It is on me, in setting up the apology as a bar, to show that the parties intended there should be an end of all litigation in respect of this particular libel.

His Lordship—As regards the action of Mr. Vömel and what took place, that may be a matter of mitigation of damages on which I shall direct the jury. But that is not a bar to the action.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It is a bar if you can regard it as being accord and satisfaction.

His Lordship—Then your pleading must show it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would ask you to construe the pleading as showing it, because, after publishing the libel, an explanatory article submitted by the plaintiff was accepted.

His Lordship—You have to show it on the face of your pleadings.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I agree to that, and submit that paragraph 11 is sufficiently explicit.

His Lordship—There should have been a specific allegation to the effect that it had been accepted in discharge of all causes and rights of action.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Then—I will withdraw the point.

Proceeding to deal with the first point, Sir Henry stated that the plaintiff had admitted in his evidence that the words did not refer to him, and upon the face of them they did not refer to him either as Mr. Vömel or as President in Hongkong. But it was incumbent on the plaintiff to show two things: he had to show that the libel applied to a particular person, either a person or corporation entitled to sue, and that that particular person was the plaintiff. There was no evidence that the defendant was aware of the existence of this plaintiff. Counsel

referred his Lordship to a case in Odger's between Eastwood and Holmes.

His Lordship (referring to it)—If a man wrote that all lawyers were thieves. (Laughter.)

Sir Henry Berkeley—That is a very rude illustration, but there is nothing to show that that article was inserted with reference to any special plaintiff.

His Lordship—On that point there are numerous authorities to show that a plaintiff must not be particularly entered.

Sir Henry Berkeley—There must be evidence from which you can point to the particular persons mentioned in the libel. The persons mentioned in this libel are not the President in Hongkong of the Basil Mission, but Mr. Sautter and Dr. Vortisch.

His Lordship (to Mr. Slade)—I am not sure that I can construe correctly paragraph 1 of the statement of claim. You say, the President in Hongkong of the Basil Mission and, carries on the business of a medical practitioner at Ho Yuen.

Mr. Slade—It is the corporate title of the Society; the name under which any action must be brought.

His Lordship—But "he carries on the business of a medical practitioner."

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship—There is no evidence of that.

Mr. Slade—The Society which is incorporated in Hongkong carries on a hospital through its servants, who are medical men.

His Lordship—I see how you put it.

Sir Henry Berkeley said whichever way it was put it was not possible to make a plaintiff, who was President in Hongkong merely for the purpose of holding the property of the Mission in Hongkong, a medical practitioner carrying on business at Ho Yuen. If his Lordship turned to Ordinance 2 of 1906, which incorporated the plaintiff, he would find what the whole scope and intention of that Ordinance was. The President in Hongkong under that Ordinance, he submitted, was merely a corporate body for the purpose of holding property in Hongkong on behalf of the Basil Mission in Switzerland. That was apparent by his title, and he had no corporate existence in Ho Yuen. The Mission had stations in India, China, Africa and other parts. Could it be contended that the President in Hongkong could bring an action in respect of a libel on a mission in Africa? If he could not bring an action in Africa, he could not bring one in China. We could not pass an Ordinance in Hongkong enabling a corporate body to hold property in China. The local legislature had no jurisdiction to incorporate a body to act in America, Africa or China, or anywhere outside of Hongkong. He submitted that the power and authority of the President in Hongkong was limited to the Colony. Assuming that the President in Hongkong could bring an action in respect of the property of the Mission in Ho Yuen, he could not bring an action of this character, because the wrong which was complained of was not an imputation upon the corporation as such, but upon individuals in the employment of the Corporation; and because the imputation was of a nature which amounted to the charge of the commission of an offence which could not be committed by a corporation.

His Lordship—You say the action should have been brought by the doctor.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I won't say by whom; but not by the President in Hongkong. There is nothing in the Ordinance which authorises the Basil Mission to trade or to do business. I submit for the several reasons given that your Lordship ought to stop the case and dismiss the action.

Mr. Slade contended that what the plaintiff was was clearly shown by the Ordinance by which he was, or it was, incorporated. Among the rights and powers specially given to it were the right to sue and be sued in all Courts of Justices and of Magistrates in this Colony.

His Lordship—Assuming, of course, that it has a right of action.

Mr. Slade—Of course. If this article injures the Basil Mission Society the plaintiff in this Court is the right plaintiff. I am showing your Lordship that the plaintiff here is a Society, not an individual at all. As my friend with has usual aptness put it, this Corporation was formed to protect the worldly interests of the Society.

His Lordship—That is a figure of speech.

Mr. Slade—Well, my lord, I think it is an exceedingly apt description of what the effect of this Ordinance is. The paper is a Hongkong paper; the wrong complained of was done in Hongkong; and the publication was in Hongkong, although the injury covered a wider area. Assuming the Society to have been injured, who else could sue in the Colony but the Society itself?

His Lordship—Why couldn't the doctor have sued?

Mr. Slade—Because these people, who have given their lives to good works, do not care to come forward and make claims for personal compensation. The injury which was done was not to them personally, but to the Society whose servants they were.

His Lordship—He is a servant of the Society and an action by the doctor would have vindicated the Society.

Mr. Slade—He could not have got the \$4,000 for injury done to the Society.

His Lordship—It is alleged that he committed an operation tantamount to murder.

Mr. Slade—He might have been a party to this action, but he preferred not to be. I take the responsibility of having advised him that it was absolutely unnecessary. Unless he wanted to recover damages for his personal reputation, it was unnecessary for him to join in an action brought because of damage done to his employers. As to whether an injury has been inflicted upon the society, that is to say, upon the plaintiff.

His Lordship—The Corporation.

Mr. Slade—The Corporation. My friend has put forward suggestions which involve the old metaphysical argument that a corporation can do no wrong. It has neither body nor soul, therefore it cannot commit a crime. That a corporation being "it," and not an individual, cannot be guilty of such purely human acts as malice.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I did not say that.

Mr. Slade—No, but you implied it. Those authorities have been exploded once and for all by the case of the Citizens' Life Insurance Co. v. Brown reported in the 1904 Appeal Cases. Applying those principles to this case, I submit it is perfectly clear that this Corporation could have been sued by the husband of the woman if the allegations contained in this article had been correct. The Corporation would have been guilty of a civil wrong, for which redress could have been recovered from it.

His Lordship—Of a criminal wrong.

Mr. Slade—I am not concerned to say that.

His Lordship—I think it is material.

Mr. Slade—The wrong which gives rise to a civil claim for damages is imputed in this article.

His Lordship—You said in your pleadings it was a criminal offence.

Mr. Slade—In innuendo.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Take it so, but that is not all. There is a great deal more than that. Continuing, Counsel stated that if a man was guilty of an act which amounted to a crime, that was no reason for depriving the person wronged of a civil remedy. His friend's assertion that a corporation could not be guilty of an assault was disproved by a long series of cases wherein corporations had been held liable for assaults committed by their servants in the course of their duty.

His Lordship—Even though it be an act which, as a corporation, they could not do.

Mr. Slade—A corporation acts through its servants, and if a servant acts within the scope of his employment the corporation is liable.

His Lordship stated that he did not propose to withdraw the case from the jury, as it might be held hereafter that the cause of action was good, and that would involve a new trial, and having regard to our present jury system it was extremely undesirable to have a new trial. That being so, he proposed to allow the case to go to the jury, subject to the point of the plaintiff's right of action. He would direct the jury that they should have to assume that there was a proper cause of action, and later he would hear fuller argument on the point raised, which was a very important one.

Counsel then addressed the jury, and after his Lordship's summing up they retired, returning into Court after an absence of ten minutes.

The Foreman (Mr. Northcote) then announced that the jury had found for the plaintiff, and assessed the damages at \$2,000.

His Lordship reserved judgment pending the furthering argument.

Wednesday, December 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM ON A PROMISSORY NOTE.

Action was brought by Gazdar against Li Kow to recover \$1,000 on a promissory note signed by the defendant and Chan Dat Cho.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

Mr. Almada informed his Lordship that he understood the defence was want of consideration.

Evidence was tendered to the effect that the plaintiff could not identify the defendant, to whom he was alleged to have lent the money. Defendant denied having signed a promissory note, but admitted having signed a tender for the making of certain machinery.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, December 16th.

CLAIM FOR COAL SUPPLIED.

The action was proceeded with in which Wing Hop and another sued Ng Yuen Ha to recover \$780.35 for coal supplied under a guarantee.

Mr. Lee d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Hinds (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) represented the defendants.

Mr. Hinds informed his Lordship that the endorsement on the writ was for the price of coal, but it appeared that the plaintiffs were suing for the guarantee on a promissory note.

Mr. Almada—I am suing on the guarantee.

His Lordship—You are satisfied with your endorsement?

Mr. Almada—Yes.

Mr. Hinds—If my friend is satisfied I ask for judgment.

His Lordship—Has the promissory note been met?

Mr. Hinds—It has been endorsed over to another firm.

His Lordship—Has it been honoured?

Mr. Hinds—I am not instructed either way.

Mr. Almada—Payment has been made by the guarantor.

Mr. Hinds said the position was that there was a debt for coal for which the plaintiffs accepted a promissory note. There was no evidence that the defendant had gone guarantee for the coal; she had only guaranteed a promissory note.

His Lordship told Mr. Almada to amend his writ by adding a second count.

Mr. Hinds did not think there should be two counts against them. The plaintiffs ought to sue one way or the other.

His Lordship—Why not alternately? There is nothing against suing on several counts.

Before the case for the defence opened Mr. Almada wished to call a witness from the country named Leung La Chun.

Mr. Hinds objected. He had offered his friend an adjournment to get his witness.

Mr. Almada—He is a most important witness.

His Lordship—Why couldn't you get him on the first occasion?

Mr. Almada—Because he was away in the country.

His Lordship did not think Mr. Almada was entitled to call the witness after closing his case.

The defendant, in cross-examination, stated that she came to Hongkong from Australia about eight years ago. She was married immediately after her arrival, and had lived with her husband in Hongkong for the last five years. During that time her health had not been good. She was not educated in Chinese on account of the lack of facilities to acquire a Chinese education in the Commonwealth. She could speak the language, however, and could read a little, but she could not write it.

The hearing was adjourned *sine die*.

Friday, December 17th.

CLAIM FOR COAL SUPPLIED.

His Lordship delivered his decision in the case in which Wong Hop and another sued Ng Yuen Ha to recover \$780.35 for coal supplied under a guarantee.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Hinds (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) represented the defendant.

His Lordship said he had come to the conclusion on the facts that he must accept the defence and the various points of law raised. He would therefore give judgment and costs for the defendant, as he thought the plaintiffs had not made out their case.

SECURITY FOR COSTS SOUGHT.

The case was mentioned in which W. Lochrane, comedian at the Victoria Cinematograph, sued L. M. Levy, in the employ of the King Edward Hotel, to recover \$878.98, said to be due for money lent and services rendered.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the defendant.

Mr. Master applied for security for costs. The plaintiff was the Scotch comedian in a cinematograph, and the defendant was employed in the King Edward Hotel.

His Lordship—Then he is probably on monthly wages.

Mr. Master—No, he has got a lease of the bar for two years.

Mr. Almada objected. His client was engaged for two months at the cinema graph, and would not finish until January 15th.

Mr. Master contended that as the plaintiff was only a temporary resident, his Lordship should order security.

His Lordship—He is earning his living here, apparently.

Mr. Master—But he has no house here, and no goods.

His Lordship—Is the plaintiff ordinarily a resident outside the jurisdiction?

Mr. Master—Certainly, and he has only a temporary engagement here, therefore there is nothing to keep him.

Mr. Almada—His engagement with the cinematograph does not conclude until January 15th.

Mr. Master—I don't admit he will be there as long as that.

His Lordship said he did not see his way to make an order at present, but would consider the matter in Chambers this morning.

ALLEGED SLANDER.

W. H. W. Loureiro proceeded against J. C. Cameron to recover damages not exceeding \$1,000 for slander. The case came on before the Puisne Judge, and a jury composed of Messrs. P. R. Wolfe (foreman), A. Hamilton and J. H. Mead.

Mr. M. Reader Harris (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Master, at the outset took a preliminary objection with regard to the empanelling of the jury. It was laid down in the Jury Ordinance that wherever it was necessary to summon a jury in Summary Jurisdiction the number drawn from should be six. In this case eighteen jurors were summoned, and that, he submitted, invalidated the whole panel.

His Lordship said he had been informed that under a misapprehension, eighteen names had been drawn. This was the number required in Original Jurisdiction. The jurors present were the first six drawn.

Mr. Master pointed out that a verdict from a jury improperly empanelled might not be upheld.

His Lordship—Who would pay the costs of an adjournment?

Mr. Harris—My friend.

Mr. Master—I submit not.

His Lordship—This would simply increase the costs to the losing party.

Mr. Master—I suggest my friend should pay.

His Lordship—It is not Mr. Harris' fault.

Mr. Master—Nor mine. I am not taking this objection to delay the case, but I thought it was a matter that ought to be mentioned.

His Lordship—I shall rule there is one panel, and go on.

Mr. Harris, in opening, informed the Court and jury that the action was brought for damages by slander which he would prove had led to the dismissal of the plaintiff from his employment. The plaintiff was the chief engineer of the s.s. *Shun Lee*, a ship belonging to the Sze Yap Steamship Co. He joined that Company on 29th December, 1905, as chief engineer, and remained until July 17th of this year, a period of about four years. The defendant, in 1907, was appointed master of the same ship. The speaker intended to prove by witness that ever since the middle of 1908 the plaintiff and defendant had been on bad terms, and the latter had used insulting and objectionable language to the plaintiff on numerous occasions. This was, presumably, with the purpose of getting the plaintiff to leave the employment of his own free will. Plaintiff, however, was not to be bullied out of his employment in such a manner. On July 11th a serious quarrel took place over a trifling matter, in which the defendant was very threatening and insulting to the plaintiff. The quarrel arose over the matter of some coal which was ordered by the defendant. The typhoon signals were up at the time, and three tons of coal went on board. Plaintiff informed the master of this, and the defendant became very abusive and said that 20 tons had gone on board. Subsequently the manager and secretary of the Company went on board, and plaintiff complained to them, with the result that 40 tons of coal were sent on board. Plaintiff notified the captain of this, and the latter again became very abusive and threatening. During the whole trip to Kongmoon on July 11th, when Mr. Jim Kai was on board, and the return trip on the 6th, plaintiff saw nothing of the defendant. On the morning after the return, however, the defendant arrived on board with an open letter addressed to the plaintiff in which it was stated that the Company did not wish to retain him any longer as an engineer, and that they had made arrangements to fill his place. The defendant read the latter in the presence of the chief officer, and then handed it to Loureiro. After three and a half years' service the plaintiff was much surprised to get a letter dismissing him with 24 hours' notice. On inquiring the reason of this, Mr. Jim Kai informed him that he had been told by Captain Cameron that the plaintiff had been accepting bribes from the Dock Co., making unnecessary work on the ship. The plaintiff would deny this, and he (Mr. Harris) asked the jury to believe that it was due to such statements that the plaintiff was dismissed, and had been unable to obtain employment since. The words about bribes meant presumably that the plaintiff had been putting money into his own pocket in order to defraud the Company. It was not necessary to prove any malice on the part of the defendant, but he asked the jury to believe, after hearing the evidence, that the defendant was actuated by most malicious motives. Plaintiff was drawing a salary of \$220, and since his discharge had been out of work for four or five months. In the event of the case being proved, the speaker therefore asked for substantial damages.

Plaintiff stated that he was lately chief engineer on the *Shun Lee*, and was now out of employment. When he first knew the defendant, about ten years ago, he was second mate of the *Fatshan*. Defendant joined the *Shun Lee* as master on the recommendation of witness, and they were good friends till the end of August, 1908. Defendant then had a row with Captain Cooper, who was mate of the vessel, and when witness spoke to him about it the defendant called him abusive names. They had another quarrel on July this year over coal. The ship was short and he asked for 20 tons because the typhoon signals were up. On receiving three tons witness complained to the manager that it was not sufficient. Subsequently 40 tons were placed on board, and when witness told the defendant the latter abused him. On the same day, July 11th, witness told the manager that it would be better to transfer him to the *Tak Hing* to save further quarrels, and Mr. Jim Kai said he would. On the morning of the 17th witness received a letter informing him that his services were no longer required. Later he called on the manager and learned the reason of his dismissal—receiving

bribes and making extra work for the Dock Co. On August 8th witness saw the manager on board, and the latter promised to employ him in a new ship they were building. When that vessel was built, however, a new man was appointed. During his service in the Company he had never had any complaints made against him. He was often consulted by the Company, and asked to do work beyond that of a chief engineer.

In cross-examination plaintiff said he held a second engineer's certificate, and had been an engineer for the last twenty years. He had never tried for his chief's ticket, but thought he could have managed to get it if he had. His reason for not trying was because he wished to get a shore billet. Before joining the *Shun Lee* he had served in vessels belonging to the N. Y. K., the China Merchants, the Douglas Steamship Company and the Chinese Steamship Company. He had been in the *Tai On* for one trip only. He considered it was the duty of an engineer to look after the boilers and attend to his own work.

You have no right to interfere with the master or mate?—No, and I never did.

What are the duties of a chief engineer with regard to repairs?—I always make out a list of necessary repairs and give it to the general manager.

Have you ever had any complaints from the general manager or directors with regard to repairs carried out by you and not submitted to them?—Never.

During the time you were in the *Shun Lee* whom were the repairs done by?—The Dock Co. used to do some, but they were mostly carried out by a Chinese firm. I went wherever I was told by the general manager.

Do you remember going into the Sze Yap Co's. office about the end of May or the beginning of June?—Yes.

And picking up an envelope from the table and removing the contents?—No.

Do you remember bringing your fist down on the table?—I did not.

Do you remember saying "D . . . fools, why was not an estimate like this sent to me?"—I did not say anything of the sort.

Do you remember advising the Sze Yap Co. to put a new windlass in the ship?—I did, the old one was continually breaking down.

Have you always been on good terms with Jim Kai?—Yes, but he has got a "down on me."

It takes two to make a quarrel. Have you been on good terms with him of late?—Yes, I have had no quarrels with him.

Have you ever assaulted him?—Never. Never laid your hands on him, pushed him, hustled him or abused him?—No.

Did you say that on the way up to Kongmoon on July 11th you never saw the defendant?—I never spoke to him. I thought his company was not good enough for me, as he threatened me with a Malacca cane and said he'd have my life.

Why didn't you take him to the Magistracy for using threats?—I thought it better to get a transfer to the *Tak Hing* and avoid all this trouble.

In re-examination, plaintiff said he was not on the best terms with Jim Kai. The latter owed him some money, and declined to give evidence in this case so that he had to subpoena him.

Jim Kai, manager, of the Sze Yap Steamship Co., was then called, and said he dismissed the plaintiff because the latter had had the ship repaired without consulting him. Then, when he went on board and asked for details of the repairs the plaintiff would not allow him to speak and drove him out of his room. On making inquiries, he found further that the engineer had got something like commission from the Dock Co. Defendant and plaintiff were sometimes on good terms, and sometimes they were not. When witness returned from Kongmoon his directors asked him to dismiss Loureiro. Defendant did not tell him that plaintiff had been accepting bribes from the Dock Co., and he could not remember having an interview with Captain Cooper on August 8th. He had a plan drawn by the plaintiff, also a letter from the latter's solicitor demanding payment for it.

And you haven't paid for it yet?—Well, we did not use it. Why should we pay?

In cross-examination witness said that the defendant had always given satisfaction, and that the Chinese said he was the best captain of the plaintiff, and had never said anything to witness about the engineer accepting bribes. While Loureiro was in the Company's service he also gave satisfaction, but witness told the directors that the plaintiff took too much on himself, and did not consult him (witness) about matters.

Has he ever assaulted you?—Yes, once when I went to consult him about details as to repairs he pushed me out of the room.

Was he "bobbey"?—He looked on me as if I was not the manager; almost.

Did you complain to the directors of his behaviour?—Yes, and they said, "We cannot employ such a man. You'd better dismiss him." The further hearing was adjourned until January 5th.

A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

An inquiry took place at the Magistracy on Friday afternoon respecting the death of Gunner Cook, R.G.A., who was found drowned in Hunghom Bay on November 21st. Mr. E. R. Hallifax conducted the inquiry, and the jury was composed of Messrs. H. Greig, F. J. Hernholz, and J. M. G. Pereira.

Gunner Allen, R.G.A., said that deceased and he spent the evening of the 20th November together. They attended a concert at the R. E. Barracks and afterwards went to the Praya East, which they left at 11.20 p.m. Outside the Naval Canteen they were accosted by a soldier belonging to the Hongkong and Singapore Battalion, who said he could recommend them to a good "sing song place." Witness declined the suggestion, but Cook, who was neither drunk nor sober, but capable of looking after himself, remained with the Indian soldier. Witness never saw Cook alive again. He could identify the Indian soldier if he saw him, but he failed to identify him when forty men of the Battalion were paraded for identification.

His Worship—I hope you appreciate this question, gentlemen of the jury. It is this man who is wanted to bridge the gap between 11.20 p.m. on the 20th November and noon the following day.

Witness added that deceased was of a cheerful disposition and a good swimmer.

By a jurymen—He had no worries?—Nothing to make him feel depressed or wish to commit suicide?

Dr. Shaw, R.N., spoke to examining the body and finding that death was due to drowning. There were several bruises on both shins, but they were not related to the cause of his death.

His Worship—Deceased was a strong swimmer. Was anything revealed in the *post mortem* which would indicate that he could not swim?

Witness—No.

His Worship—He was found in five feet of water. Two feet would be sufficient to drown him if he were drunk, but he would have to be very drunk?

Witness—Yes.

His Worship—The water would sober him.

Witness—Yes.

P. S. Sutton spoke to finding the body and having it removed to the mortuary. He found the body lying in about five feet of water, face down, with arms and legs crossed.

By the Court—He must have fallen into the water where he was found. It was impossible for the currents to have carried the body from the Hongkong side to where it was found. The body was quite fresh and could only have been in the water four or five hours.

P. S. Edwards deposed to finding on the body a silver dollar, a mouth organ, and several other small articles.

His Worship thought that Gunner Allen should have a fuller opportunity of identifying the Indian soldier. Gunner Allen said he saw the parade of men on pass that night, but there were opportunities for men being out without a pass.

The jury agreed that the coloured gunner should be found, and the inquiry was adjourned to give Gunner Allen an opportunity of going through the battalion until he found the man.

ALLEGED FORGERY OF A WILL.

At the Magistracy on Dec. 13th before Mr. Hallifax the hearing of the charge preferred against Wong Yuk Shi of forging a will was resumed. Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. F. X. D'Almada appeared for the defence.

Mr. Bowley stated that in this case the defendant was charged with uttering and making a false declaration with regard to a will. The case arose out of the estate of Wong Pik Hoi, a gentleman who lived at Kowkong on the West River, and who in the course of his life appeared to have accumulated a considerable amount of property. When he died in 1891 he left four sons and apparently made no will. No administration of the estate appeared to have been granted to anybody until 1908, when it was granted to Mrs. Percy Smith, thirty years after the death of Wong Pik Hoi. An action was commenced in the Supreme Court by the third son, Wong Tsun Shi, now deceased, against the eldest son, Wong Yik Shi, who had taken possession of his father's estate and had administered it without lawful authority for thirty years. Under his care it seemed to have prospered and became very valuable. The case brought by the third son against the eldest son was compromised in September this year, by all the members of the family agreeing as to how the estate should be divided. A few days before the compromise was approved by the Court the third son died at Kowkong, and the defendant, who was the fourth son, and had acted as his deceased brother's attorney, received his brother's share.

Mr. d'Almada said his friend could not insist on using the word attorney. Immediately the man died the power of attorney given to his brother was revoked.

His Worship said he did not know the facts, and perhaps Mr. Bowley had better continue.

Mr. d'Almada said he did not wish to interrupt.

Mr. Bowley thought it would be more correct if he said that defendant acting as attorney for his brother accepted the compromise, the money not being paid until later. The estate of Wong Tsun Shi was sworn at some \$42,000, which was reduced by deductions for debts to \$2,000 only. Wong Tsun Shi left a widow and three children, and when they received only \$2,000 from the estate when they expected a lakh of dollars they caused inquiries to be made with the result that those proceedings were instituted.

Evidence was called and the hearing adjourned.

AN ALLEGED FEROCIOUS DOG.

A Chinese letter carrier-proceeded against Mrs. Chunyut, of "Parkside," Nathan Road, Kowloon, on a charge of keeping a ferocious dog. The summons came on for hearing before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Dec. 10th, and the pup which was said to be ferocious was exhibited in Court. The defendant was represented by Mr. Otto Kong Sing.

Complainant stated that when he went to defendant's house on the morning of the 6th instant the dog bit him on the leg.

In cross-examination witness said he had been taking letters to "Parkside" for some considerable time, and had always been chased by dogs.

Did you ever hear this dog bark?—This dog does not bark; it just comes up and bites you.

Haven't you had some rows with the boy at the house because he did not open the door quickly when you rang the bell?—No.

Did you tread on the dog's tail, or on his paw?—No, he simply ran up and bit me.

Constable McClennan gave evidence as to serving the summons and being shown the dog. The pup appeared to be quite affectionate, and it was very seldom that dogs of this breed were dangerous.

His Worship (to defendant)—Has this dog bitten you before?—I am afraid that in some future day it might come round and bite me again.

Constable McClennan informed his Worship that he had seen many dog bites, but he had never seen one like the scratch on the complainant's leg.

Complainant said he had plenty of business to attend to, and if the dog had not bitten him he would not have attended at the Court to take out a summons.

The summons was dismissed.

A CUSTOMS PROSECUTION.

Before Mr. E. R. Hallifax at the Magistracy on Dec. 11th Mr. T. H. King, the acting Superintendent of Imports and Exports, proceeded against a Chinese woman for selling liquor without a licence, and against two men for assaulting an excise officer.

Complainant informed the Court that some Chinese revenue officers, acting under instructions from Revenue Officers Wilden and Mackenzie, boarded the *Siberia* and had a conversation with the female defendant. One of the officers asked for a bottle of beer and the defendant sent a small boy down to the firemen's quarters to procure one. The European revenue officers saw the beer produced, and the money paid for it, and thereupon placed the woman in charge of a Chinese officer. While inquiring about the woman from the chief officer, a gang of coolies assaulted the excise officer and released his prisoner, who was subsequently re-arrested. The two male defendants were the ringleaders.

After hearing the evidence his Worship fined each of the defendants \$50, the alternative being two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

EXECUTION AT VICTORIA GAOL.

On the 15th inst, the Chinese named Muk Tin Fuk, who was sentenced to death for complicity in the murder of two Indian police in the New Territory in August last, was duly executed in Victoria Gaol, and the usual inquest was held at the Magistracy in the afternoon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax conducted the inquiry, and the jurors were: Messrs F. A. McIntosh, A. A. Alves, and F. T. Chappell.

After the jury had viewed the body, evidence was called.

The first witness was Mr. R. H. Craig, assistant superintendent in charge of Victoria Gaol, who said he received the deceased into his custody on 20th November under sentence of death, which sentence was duly carried out in his presence at 5.5 a.m. that day. He produced the Government warrant for the execution.

Dr. Thomson said he was present at the execution. Death was instantaneous. He examined the body and found that death was due to dislocation of the neck.

The jury found that death was in accordance with the law, the immediate cause being dislocation of the neck.

THE HONGKONG DOLLAR.

In connection with the seizure by the police of a large amount of counterfeit coin reported the point was raised that a certain silver piece described as the Hongkong dollar was not what it was described, but was in fact the Straits dollar. Support to this theory was found in the fact that the coin contained what looked like an inscription in Malay. As the matter was of some interest one of our representatives consulted the Colonial Treasurer on the subject, who explained that the correct description of the coin in question was the British dollar, which was introduced in 1895 for use in the Straits Settlements and in Hongkong. Two or three years ago the Straits Settlements adopted the gold standard, with the result that so far as the Straits were concerned this dollar was no longer legal tender. The only place in which it remained legal tender was in Hongkong, and this has led to it being termed the Hongkong dollar, a loose expression which is perhaps permissible in the circumstances. By Ordinance 7 of 1895 the British dollar was declared legal tender concurrent with the Mexican dollar.

Of course, there was a Hongkong dollar, properly so called, minted back in the seventies. But it is no longer in circulation, and when found is usually retained as a curio. The Hongkong Mint, which was rather an expensive undertaking, was sold to the Japanese in 1817, and is now in Osaka.

GERMAN SAILOR FATALLY SHOT IN MACAO.

ANOTHER STABBED.

Writing on Tuesday, our Macao correspondent states that an assault of a serious nature was committed on two sailors of the German gunboat *Tsingtau*, near the Hongkong, Canton and Macao's steamer wharf on the previous morning. It appears that the men were returning to their ship, and when under the wharf covering were accosted by two men, who demanded that they should settle accounts owing by them to a certain restaurant, they being alleged to have paid twenty cents short of the bill tendered. The sailors, either misunderstanding or ignoring the request, were proceeding on their way when a revolver shot brought them to a halt, one of the men being severely wounded. His comrade, who stayed to render assistance, was stabbed. They were able to return to the ship, but the bluejacket who was shot died on Tuesday morning and was removed to the military hospital, from which the funeral took place on Wednesday morning.

The commander of the German gunboat reported the affair to the local authorities, who are investigating. Inquiries so far have only elicited the fact that the two assailants were wearing European clothes and were not Chinese, but the culprits have not yet been discovered.

The second man injured is reported to be in a serious condition, and grave doubts are entertained as to his recovery.

The funeral of the bluejacket who was shot place on Wednesday afternoon, the deceased being interred in the English cemetery. Representatives of the Portuguese forces attended the funeral, a firing party being supplied by the Infantry Corps.

Two retired soldiers, named Gomes and Guimaraes, have been arrested. Gomes is a restaurant keeper, and the other man is chief of the Fire Brigade.

HONGKONG PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

At a meeting held on the 2nd December, there were present:—The Director of Public Works, Chairman; the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. W. Gresson, and Hon. Mr. Edward Osborne.

RE-LAYING OF ICE HOUSE STREET WITH WOOD PAVING.

The members, having discussed the relative merits and prices of other road materials and the somewhat heavy expense entailed by wood paving, finally unanimously agreed that this street should be paved with this material as an experiment in such paving, adding that it would be possible when re-constructing to then improve this street by abolition of the gutters and in other ways.

EXTENSION OF PEAK TRAMWAY TO QUEEN'S ROAD.

The Chairman then stated that he had been asked to "obtain the opinion of the Public Works Committee on the point whether the extension of the Peak Tramway to Queen's Road on trestles along Garden Road is a desirable improvement in the public interest." The members were unanimously in favour of the extension, but, after some considerable discussion, they decided that the question of trestles was a difficult matter to come to an opinion about with no plan before them. They stated that the least objectionable form of trestles, if there were no better means of carrying the tram line, should be adopted, but that as regards the form the line should take from the nullah to the Queen's Road, further details should be supplied before the Public Works Committee be asked to express an opinion as to the desirability, or feasibility, of one system or another.

They did not, however, think the vicinity to the Cathedral should prevent the extension of this line by trestles or any other form of supports that might be decided upon.

The order regarding the muzzling of dogs which has been in force at Kulangsu (Amoy) since 28th September was rescinded on the 11th instant, the Health Officer for the port having declared it to be no longer necessary.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

December 12th.

SPORTS.

The schools boys of Kwongtung are in a state of excitement just now owing to sports which are about to take place on the 15th and 16th of next moon. Sports do not enter very largely into the life of the Chinese schoolboy, but from the enthusiastic way in which the lads of various schools in the city are training it would seem that had they the opportunities, they would not be far behind their Western brothers. The sports are to take place outside the East Gate at a spot called Tung Kau Cheung. There are not only racing and jumping events, but shooting matches form an important part of the programme.

GAMBLING.

Many are the modes of gambling, but surely one of the worst among them is to set two male thrushes to fight to the death and bet on the result. This and similar "sport" with crickets is the favourite pastime of the natives of the Ning Shan District, and to such an extent is this pastime carried on that many well-to-do men have ruined themselves and families by this form of gambling. The booths and sheds where the fighting is carried on are taxed and the money goes towards the support of the local police force. Ning Shan, however, possesses a few men who are of enlightened minds and who are disgusted with this rotten state of affairs, and they have joined in sending a petition to the Viceroy asking him to take proceedings to stop these disgraceful practices.

OPIUM.

It is reported that in certain outlying parts of the Province the laws for the suppression of opium have had but little effect and are but lightly regarded. The reason is said to be that there is no strict system regarding the sale of raw opium and it is stated that persons can, in some places, purchase this commodity at will and then, it is to the presumed, they prepare and retail it for their own profit.

Even members of anti-opium societies are not always true to their principles. It was noted in the native papers a few days ago that at the marriage of the daughter of a prominent member of the Heung Shan anti-opium society two rooms were set apart and provided with pipes and opium for those who desired to indulge. It was noted, moreover, that though certain members of the police force were present no protest was made against this breach of the opium laws.

SELF-GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

The newly-formed Self-Government Society of Honan has just established a fire brigade. The engine is considered to be of good pattern and will force water to a distance of over ten *cheung*. Frequent practices are being held and the scene always attracts large numbers of spectators. To co-operate with the brigade a relief party will shortly be formed, and already several doctors have volunteered their services free of charge. It is to be sincerely hoped that the Honan Society will confine their attentions to these and similar useful endeavours and not, as certain other societies are doing, fritter away their energies in causing useless strife.

RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM.

Last week Fatshan was en fête, the reason being religious processions held in honour of a Buddhist deity known as Kwun Yam, whose temple at Fatshan has but recently been repaired. To cope with the large influx of visitors many special trains were run daily from Canton, and the railway must have made a handsome profit. The launches and junks from up and down river were also crowded, and since Fatshan has been a town it has never had such a large number of visitors.

FIRES.

The city has been suffering from an epidemic of fires lately. One of the latest broke out in the Old City in a street near the Tartar General's Yamen. The flames spread very rapidly, and in a short time four houses were totally destroyed. During the same night another fire broke out in a street close by. Here the damage originated in a joss-paper store, but

this luckily was not so destructive as the other. The authorities have lately notified the public that should the crime of arson be proved against anyone, that person will be most severely dealt with.

OFFICERS IN DISGRACE.

The Magistrates of the Nam Hung, Hoi Tang and Tin Ping Districts have not taken sufficient steps to suppress the growing of native opium. Viceroy Yuen has punished them by giving each a black mark. Other Magistrates have been informed of this procedure and have been told to take warning therefrom.

In contrast to this the Viceroy has recommended that the provincial officers be rewarded for faithful service, and Admiral Li stands first on the recommendation.

THE JAPANESE IN KOREA.

A correspondent writing to the *Pall Mall Gazette* says: Opinions may differ as to the methods of coercion of the Japanese in Korea, adverted to by your correspondent Lady Westmacott in to-day's issue of your paper, just as they differ when the question is that of sedition in India or at Barcelona, or even that of recalcitrant Suffragettes. Doubtless there is much to be said in extenuation of them when all the facts are known, and the difficulties are appreciated, and due account is taken of the almost hopelessly backward conditions in which the Koreans existed before their distracted country was taken in hand by its present masters.

Whatever the miseries of the insurgents may be, it is certain that Japanese rule has brought to the mass of the people an amelioration of their lot in many ways as compared with the unspeakable oppression under which they laboured until the annexation of their country.

I have a letter this very day from a friend in Korea who has no connection with politics—indeed, he is a missionary—corresponding with me about a matter totally unconnected with the country's affairs in any way, and it may be of interest to listen to what he has to say as a mere item of news he thought likely to attract my attention as a causal correspondent. I should premise that he has lived many years in the country, and is universally esteemed and respected by natives and Japanese alike, and is one of the best scholars in the realm. He says:—

"You may have seen that we have had an epidemic of cholera. It visits us seemingly about once in seven years, and in the old days the people died off by many hundreds daily. This year, however, the figures are changed, and one hundred was about the highest limit. How one's admiration for the Japanese grows at a time like this; they are really wonderful when it comes to taking most difficult hygienic measures and handling great masses of helpless and indifferent people. Every house where a case broke out was marked and watched by special police. The infected wells were dosed with lime so that the water could not be used, and the keys were left at the hydrants of the waterworks so that all could draw city water freely as they pleased. They have really stamped it out by throttling it at every point. The truth is that Seoul under the new régime is one of the cleanest and safest cities in the East. Koreans are beginning to appreciate these things, even the most conservative among them is beginning to look with less and less contempt on the odour of carbolic acid and chloride of lime."

Anyone who has visited Seoul in the old days or has read about it in such books as Lord Curzon's "Problems of the Far East," will be able to appreciate the benefits conferred on Korea by these wholesome measures of sanitary reform.

The South Manchuria Railway Co.'s statement of accounts for the first half of the present fiscal year ended September 30 indicates the marvellous prosperity of the corporation and shows an increase of forty per cent. in the gross receipts and of fifty per cent. in the mining receipts on those for the corresponding term of the preceding year. The railway earning, during the said term reached ¥. 5,830,000.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Ten guineas was paid in London on the 23rd ult. for reinsurance of the German mail steamer *Prinzess Alice*, which was reported overdue at Singapore from Hongkong.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Nisshin Kisen Kaisha (Japan-China Steamship Company) took place at Tokyo recently, when a dividend of five per cent. per annum was declared.

The Hamburg-Amerika Linie steamer *Brisgavia*, which had been ashore outside Woosung for about ten days, was successfully refloated at 8.15 a.m. on the 9th inst. The task of refloating her was entrusted to the Kochien Transportation and Towboat Company. The *Brisgavia* will be docked for examination.

President Taft in his recent message to Congress has strongly urged the enactment of a Ship Subsidy Bill to encourage American shipping. According to a telegram published by the Manila papers, the President commented upon the deplorable depletion of American shipping and the embarrassing absence of bottoms to aid the navy in case of war or to carry the country's commerce in times of peace.

The ill-fated steamer *Kisogata-Maru II*, which foundered recently in a typhoon in the Japan Sea, was insured with the Imperial Marine Insurance Co. for ¥90,000. Her cargo, consisting of beans and bean-cake, which was a total loss, is valued at about ¥100,000. She had a crew of 85 and a few passengers, and all of them, it is feared, were drowned. The bodies of 26 men and of two women have been recovered. The fate of the Captain is unknown.

According to official returns to the end of October, the number of steamers belonging to the Japanese merchant marine totals 1,643, with an aggregate displacement of 1,182,974 tons gross. Steamers afloat displacing over 10,000 tons are two in number, and those displacing between 5,000 and 9,000 tons number thirty-four. Sailing vessels number 4,799, with a total displacement of 383,897 tons gross. They include one vessel of over 2,000 tons. Sailing vessels, the carrying capacity whereof is measured by *koku*, number 1,881, with an aggregate capacity of 656,181 *koku*.

The N. Y. K.'s Yokohama-Shanghai liner *Yamaguchi Maru* (3,221 tons), which left Moji at 4.30 p.m. on the 5th for Nagasaki, stranded at Ipponmatsu, outside Moji. The vessel, which is commanded by Captain J. Hand, has a crew of about fifty, with forty passengers, and is carrying a cargo of some 1,500 tons, consisting of cotton yarn, matches, sugar and piece goods. It appears that when trying to turn her helm to the westward the steamer was caught by a strong north-west wind and blown back towards Moji. She was also carried westward by the ebb tide and rapidly approached the shore. An attempt was made to anchor the vessel, but without avail, the steamer eventually stranding. The distance between her bows and the shore is reported to be only from twelve to eighteen feet. As, however, the bottom is of sand, the shock was so slight that the passengers were not aware at first that the ship had stranded. It was believed that no damage has been done to the bottom of the vessel, and there was no fear of water getting in.

At the half-yearly general meeting of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha the President, Mr. Kondo Rempei, the *Japan Mail* says, offered a very full explanation of the vital question whether the Company should continue its present subvention under the old law, or adhere to the system prescribed by the new. Both courses have their advantages and disadvantages. The two principal lines concerned, which may also be regarded as the basic business of the Company, are the European and the American services. The close of this year terminates the present subvention, but it can be renewed for five years at the option of the Company. On the other hand, it would terminate finally in 1914, and although during that interval the actual amount of subsidy received would be larger

than the sum accruing under the new law, the ships would find themselves entirely without State aid at the end of the five years. By adhering to the new law there would be a small decrease of subvention, but it would continue for 15 years, though from the end of the fifth year the scale would be gradually reduced. Moreover, the age of a ship is an important factor under the new law, and in the case of the American line this provision would entail the building of three new steamers at a cost of 3 million yen in the near future. That difficulty does not exist, however, in the case of the European line. The Company has six new steamers of 8,500 tons each plying upon that route, and these would be eligible for State aid throughout the entire term of 15 years. On the whole, the President and the Directors recommended that the Company should adhere to the new law, and the recommendation was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Great increases in the steamship services and the augmenting of the lines now in operation in the trans-Pacific trade are anticipated within the next few years. Next summer many additions are expected, but it is in 1911, says a Canadian paper, that the largest increases are expected, when the C.P.R. will add two large steamers, either the R.M.S. *Empress of Ireland* and *Empress of Britain*, or two similarly large and well-equipped liners to be specially constructed for the trade, and the Canadian Northern Railroad Company and Grand Trunk Pacific Company will establish connecting steamship lines, probably both to the Orient and Antipodes. The paper we quote mentions that Mr. James Bain, who recently retired as superintendent of the Cunard Line, is bound to the Orient with the stated intention of establishing a new trans-Pacific service. It further states that the Bank Line to Hongkong and Manila will be augmented next summer with two new liners, the *Luceri* and *Orteric*. The former, a modern freight and passenger steamer of 11,000 tons now being completed at Port Glasgow on the Clyde, will leave Hongkong for Vancouver and Puget Sound in August next, and the second steamer will leave in September.

The large twin-screw vessel which Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., have under construction for Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co., of Liverpool, was successfully launched at Hebburn last month, when Mrs. Richard D. Holt, wife of the member for Hexham, performed the christening ceremony by naming the vessel *Protesilaus*, as it moved towards the water. The vessel has been designed for the Far Eastern general cargo trade, and details of construction have all been arranged to make her specially suitable.

The dimensions of the *Protesilaus* are:—Length, 501 feet; breadth, 60.8 feet; depth, 42.6 feet. She will have a deadweight capacity of 18,000 tons, and accommodation for about 580 emigrants and a number of first-class passengers. There will be seven holds and the cargo gear will consist of 26 powerful winches and 31 derricks capable of lifting weights up to 50 tons. The vessel has been designed for the Far Eastern general cargo trade, and details of construction have all been arranged to make her specially suitable. She has very spacious holds, clear of obstructions and suited to the stowage of bulky cargo, such as railway cars or boilers. There will be no masts fitted, but four large pillars, two forward and two aft at the sides of the vessel, will serve the purpose of derrick posts. The two forward pillars will be joined by a bridge about 75 feet above the water, which will be useful as a lookout. Electric light is fitted throughout the vessel. Her machinery, which is being constructed by the North-Eastern Marine Engineering Company at Wallsend, will consist of two sets of triple-expansion engines, with cylinders 23 inches, 38½ inches, and 65 inches by 48 inches stroke, steam being supplied by three large boilers working at a pressure of 190 pounds.

Mr. E. C. Wilton, H. R. M. Acting Consul-General at Yunnan, has left to take up his new post in Shantung. Mr. P. E. O'Brien-Butler has taken his place.

HONGKONG SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' HOME.

DONATION FROM THE GERMAN SQUADRON.

The Rev. J. A. A. Baker writes to say that he has received \$220 from Dr. E. A. Voretzsch, the Imperial German Consul. This is the result of an appeal to Admiral Ingenohl, who has received this from the German men-of-war under his command in the Far East. Such an amount will help considerably to swell the funds, and the Committee are very grateful to Dr. Voretzsch for taking the matter in hand. While the German vessels are in Hongkong harbour the men use the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home continually.

DECORATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF THE I. M. CUSTOMS.

By Imperial Edict the decoration of the Order of the Double Dragon of the Second Division has been conferred on Mr. A. H. Harris, formerly of Swatow and now Commissioner of Customs for Kowloon and District, and that of the Third Division on Mr. R. A. Currie, now in England, lately Acting Commissioner at Swatow.

The decorations have been granted on the recommendation of the late Canton Viceroy, for services rendered in Customs and Postal work in the Swatow District.

RESIGNATION OF THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL ENGINEER.

The minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council include the following reference to the resignation of Mr. C. Mayne, the Municipal Engineer and Surveyor:—The resignation of Mr. C. Mayne of his appointment as Engineer and Surveyor is submitted, with effect from November 27. Mr. Mayne's recent special leave for six months was granted in the hope that his private affairs would admit of his resuming work in December; such, however, has not been found practicable, and no course remains to the Council but to accept his resignation.

This employee's appointment dates from May, 1889, and the Chairman makes reference to his twenty years' satisfactory work as the head of an important branch of the Municipal Service. He has carried out his duties during this period with singleness of purpose and preserved a record for the Department of continuous integrity.

It is decided to offer Mr. Mayne the appointment of Consulting Engineer to the Council at a salary of £150 a year renewable annually. He will be required in periodical reports to advise the Council on all matters connected with municipal engineering, and to undertake the collection of particulars as to any subject upon which the Council may desire information.

Mr. Mayne is entitled to draw the sum accumulated in his name in the Superannuation Fund, but, since the Fund has only been in operation since 1903, it is decided to insert provision in the Budget for 1910 for a special honorarium of £2,000.

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Works Committee, it is decided to appoint Mr. C. H. Godfrey, at present the Deputy Engineer, to the post of Municipal Engineer.

TRADE WITH YUNNAN.

The total value of the trade of Tengyueh for the year 1908-9 amounted to 1,765,868 taels, an increase of 33,656 taels on the figures for the preceding year. The prospects for 1909 are not overpromising. The highly commendable measures adopted by His Excellency Hsi-Liang Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow, in pursuance of the aims of the anti-opium edict and embodied in his proclamation dated 21st July, 1908, must in all reasonable probability have an adverse effect on the trade of Rangoon in the immediate future. The terms of the proclamation are reported to have been strictly enforced in all the principal opium-producing centres as regards the 1909 crop. It is estimated that six-tenths of the arable land in Yunnan has of late years been under opium cultivation, whilst the profits, only on an average crop, are estimated to have been from 300 to 400 per cent.

LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

Despite the many counter attractions on Saturday afternoon our popular winter pastime had a large following. No fewer than three competitions were on the go, the two divisions of the H.K. League and the Navy League. Several good games were witnessed, but the results were all as might have been anticipated.

That the Sappers should have been so badly beaten by the Yarders was hardly in keeping with the game, as although the home team was superior in every department to their opponents, only the absence of a player in the visiting team could account for the opportunities afforded Wilks and Sullivan.

The Sappers had only two of their regular players in their team, and judging by the display of several of those who were out for the first time I should not be surprised if the combination is further strengthened by the inclusion of more new blood.

Naval Yard with their reconstructed forward line are now good enough for any team they are likely to be up against, and Sullivan, with his tricky footwork, continues to take the eye, at the same time adding to his splendid goal total.

After their sensational opening on Saturday against Kowloon the Gunners took a long time to again find the net, and then only after the visitors had had several good tries at equalising. The ground was too hard for the play of the home team to be fully effective, the long passes very often travelling over the touch-line as the result of the lively ball.

Kowloon do not seem to have suffered much by dropping several of the players who started the season with them, and if the present combination can be kept together they ought to do well in the forthcoming cup-tie competitions. I hope that in the interests of the game there is nothing in the rumour that an amalgamation is likely to take place between Kowloon and the Club. In any case, I fail to see that either team would benefit, as after carefully comparing the two teams, man for man in their positions, with the exception of Brown and Foulkes, the Club would not be strengthened by any of the Kowloon team.

Form in football is a quantity which can rarely be relied on. When the results of the second division reached me on Saturday I tried to compare the values of the various teams on previous results, and found that on paper the Moslems, having drawn with Lusitano, who had twice drawn with B.O.C., should have been good enough for 83 Coy., as B.O.C. defeated 83 Coy. at Lyemun by one goal to nil. But the argument finished there, because the Moslem team were defeated by eight goals to nil, and never at any part of the game did they show to advantage.

88 Coy., 83 Coy., and B Coy. are running a neck and neck race for League honours, but although the season is only half through I have no hesitation in predicting that the Victoria Barracks Coy. will come out on top.

The teams from the ships are shaping well in their League matches. *King Alfred* have so far won every match played since they arrived in the Colony, but the margin has in each case been so small that it would seem as if all the naval teams were pretty much on a par. This being so, it will be interesting to note their display in any matches they may play against the H. K. League teams as having a bearing on their chances in the forthcoming Shield competition.

The match between the Buffs and the R.G.A. on Saturday is likely to be an evenly-contested one. The present state of the ground is very much in favour of the Buffs, as they play a much closer game than the Gunners, and should the present spell of dry weather continue I expect to see the Buffs come out on top.

LEADING GOAL SCORES.

Taylor, Buffs	(7)	18
Watts, R.G.A.	(7)	14
Brewster, Buffs	(7)	10
Sullivan, Naval Yard	(4)	9
Brown, Kowloon	(7)	7

Numbers in parenthesis indicate matches played.

REFEREE.

CRICKET NOTES.

League cricket has now settled down to normal conditions and the weather has been ideal. It is a pity one cannot make the same remark anent the pitches, or, rather, the pitches elsewhere than on the Club Ground.

Saturday's matches were productive of some interesting cricket. On the Club ground the Artillerymen were matched against the Hongkong "A" team, though why they style themselves "A" is difficult to conjecture. Pearce, Turner, Hancock and Claxton could hardly be called an "A" team combination. Last year the Club entered two teams—A and B—and having their forces split up, they were more or less on an equal footing with the other Clubs, who cannot offer the same inducement to wielders of the willow as the premier club. Under last year's conditions the League competition provided a higher class of cricket than previously, and nobody begrudged "B" team their winning the Shield. Previous to last year only a certain number of "first class cricketers" were allowed to play with the "A" team, and in consequence they were unable to get anything like a team to be depended on. Now they go to the other extreme, and the "A" team is practically a representative Hongkong Club team. It is to be regretted that the Club did not enter two teams, for this season, that if they want to win the Shield there is no team in the Colony who would stand possible chance of beating them, and thus no credit would accrue to their retaining it for an indefinite period. As it stands now, it would appear that if they are keen on winning a particular match, they put in a strong team; if, on the other hand, they are indifferent, they put in a team not quite so strong.

The Artillery compiled the tidy score of 104 for 9 wickets. Major Logan, Capt. Garnett and Gunner Fuller each topping 20. Leith and Pearce were the successful trundlers—the former's analysis reading 5 wickets for 35 runs, a very creditable performance. For the Club the partnership of Pearce and Claxton provided sufficient runs to win the match. For the R.G.A. Capt. Garnett and Bdr. Winkworth, a new addition to their side, shared the bowling honours. The former secured five wickets and the latter three.

Craigengower played the Civil Service on the former's ground. The main feature of the match was the remarkably low scores and in consequence the success of the trundlers. The home team went to the wickets, and, facing the bowling of Battliwara and Pestonji, scored 54. Five "ducks" were registered. Battliwara bowls under-arm leg breaks and has been responsible for a number of surprises this season. There really appears to be nothing in his deliveries, but the fact remains that he gets wickets. Craigengower appeared to have the game in hand, but Brett and Hutchison for the Civils were responsible for a similar rot in their batting side. There is no doubt the small scores are attributable to the wretched state of the pitch, and the old question crops up as to whether it would not be advisable for the League teams to play their matches on matting. It would do away with the necessity of keeping expensive staffs for coaxing or trying to coax turf to grow and it would make the scoring much higher and cricket more interesting to match, from a spectator's standpoint.

The Telegraphs and Kowloon met on the Craigengower Ground, the match resulting in a win for the Telegraphs. Kowloon were first at the wickets, and were all disposed of for 64—due mainly to the bowling of Oliver, who secured 6 wickets for 28 runs. Weaser (10) was the only Kowloonite to reach double figures—four

nines being registered. Telegraphs scored the necessary runs with the loss of two wickets.

UMPIRE.

LEAGUE TABLE.

Club	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.	Per cent.
Telegraphs	2	2	0	0	4	100.0
Buffs	3	2	0	1	4	66.6
Civil Service	5	3	1	1	6	50.00
Royal Engineers	6	4	2	0	8	33.3
H.K.C.C.	3	2	1	0	4	33.3
R. G. Artillery	4	2	2	0	4	25.0
Kowloon	5	1	4	0	2	-60.00
Craigengower	4	1	3	0	2	-75
Hongkong Police	4	0	4	0	0	-100.0

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

THE SITUATION IN KOREA.

THE QUESTION OF ANNEXATION BY JAPAN.

Tokyo, December 19th.

The Ilchinhoe society agitation is discredited, but Count Hayashi in an interview advocates the annexation of Korea as being the best method of protecting Japanese interests and allaying Korean dissatisfaction, if the Powers do not object. He cites the annexations of Hawaii by the United States and Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austro-Hungary as precedents.

WELCOME HOME TO JAPANESE MERCHANTS.

Tokyo, December 17th.

The businessmen who recently visited America arrived at Yokohama to-day, and were accorded a great welcome.

At Tokyo, where formal proceedings took place in the Chamber of Commerce, in the presence of the Diplomatic Corps, Baron Shibusawa said that he and his party had set an example in national diplomacy, and had found that Americans everywhere desired to enter into peaceful competition on the Pacific.

MR. ROOSEVELT AND THE LATE PRINCE ITO.

Tokyo, December 17th.

Mr. Roosevelt has telegraphed to Japan from Nairobi, in the East Africa Protectorate, expressing profound horror at assassination of Prince Ito.

The message was evidently dispatched by carrier from far in the interior of Africa.

THE JAPANESE BUDGET.

Tokyo, December 19th.

The Budget has been circulated among the leaders of the political parties.

The main features are a readjustment of taxation, and the increase of official salaries involving nine million yen.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure balance, the amount being 534,172,706 yen.

The War Office expenditure shows a decrease of eight millions.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

SIR CHEN TONG-CHENG CENSORED

Peking, December 17th.

The Viceroy of Canton has sent a memorial to the Throne censoring Sir Chen Tung-Cheng, formerly Chinese Minister at Washington, and at present Secretary to the Naval Commissioners.

The Viceroy stated that during Sir Chen's management of the Canton-Hankow Railway he spent over \$7,000,000 and completed only about 43 miles of the line.

Mr. William J. Calhoun, who has been appointed U.S. Minister to Peking, is a member of the firm of Calhoun, Lyford and Sheehan, o-Chicago. He was born 61 years ago in Pennsylvania and has been a lawyer since 1875. He was a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, March 8, 1898, to October 1, 1900.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th December:—The prices are declining, market being dull:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.95	to	\$5.00
" Round, Good quality	5.00		5.05
" Long	5.10		5.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.85		4.90
" Garden, " No. 1	5.10		5.15
" White	5.15		5.20
" Fine Cargo	5.25		5.30

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, December 7th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,300/1,350	per picul
Malwa Old	\$1,360/1,400	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,410/1,430	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,440/1,460	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,100/1,200	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$1,250/1,300	do.
Patna New	\$1,445	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,435	do.
Benares New	\$1,470	do.
Benares Old	\$ —	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, 15th Dec., 1909, state:—Manchester though wanting work badly is not prepared to do it at a loss and consequently the buying for this market is very limited. The export of Plain Cotton for last month was 20,000,000 yards to Hongkong and China. According to Messrs. W. H. Not & Co's Tables for October the Colony took 37% of the Bleached goods and 23% of the Grey. The Cotton market in Liverpool has kept very firm, the spot price for Mid-American coming to-day 7.87d., yesterday March/April option being quoted 7.74d. Egyptian, after touching 13½d., has dropped to 13½d. The New York Cotton market has advanced to 15.21 cents for March option. The Girners' report to 1st instant is 8,878,000 bales against 11,000,000 bales last year. To make the calculation that is usually made on the basis of these figures and the average for the last three years, namely, 9,794,043 bales, this works out to a crop of 11,748,000 bales, which is within 325,000 bales on the basis of the acreage and monthly conditions to the end of September, namely, 11,426,857 bales. The rise in Sterling has stopped business in Indian Yarn for the time being to a great extent, that is, from first hands, as the Native holders are supplying the wants of buyers at easier rates. Japanese Spinnings, however, are maintaining their values in view of the present light stocks. Full supplies of these have been contracted for delivery up to May next. Local Spinners are hampered by the difficulty in getting suitable supplies of Native Cotton. It is reported that during the recent spell of cold weather large quantities were so badly watered that the bales freeze hard and much had to be rejected. The dealers are still nibbling round, picking up what little lots they can lay hold of at comparatively cheap prices. They are not getting much encouragement from consumers, however, and several parcels bought for clearance this year will have to be held over it is thought. The Ningpo trade is disappointing and some anxiety is felt regarding the immediate future owing to losses sustained by the farmers through a cattle disease that has destroyed large numbers of buffaloes during the last month, and which will greatly impede their agricultural pursuits. The chief inquiry seems to be for T-Cloths and Jeans, but it is difficult to get reasonable prices offered. We understand, however, that some business has gone through. The excessive quantities put up at this morning's Auction has had a depressing effect on the market and prices have suffered accordingly. There are very few redeeming features about the sales, as will be noticed by reference to the particulars below. The small lots of Woollens do not show any encouraging results.

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 20th December.—The above market is at a standstill, and prices remain as last quoted.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 8th December.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 45.50
Do. seconds	41.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	24.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	70.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	10.00
Whitel hina Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	9.00
Green China Grass, Szechuan	5.00
Jute	12.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	11.40
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	12.00
Animal Tallow	15.40
Gallnuts, usual shape	17.80
Gallnuts, plum do.	—
Tobacco Tinchow	—
Tobacco, Wengkong	—
Black Bristles,	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	—
Turnerie	5.35
Sesamum Seed	2.10
Broad Beans	2.00
White Peas	—
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.85
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	—
Tea Oil	—

Per P. & O. steamer *Himalaya* sailed on the 11th December, 1909. For Manchester—125 bales waste silk. For Antwerp—50 bales feathers. For New York—21 bales matting. For Hamburg—58 cases human hair. For Marseilles—40 bales raw silk; 1 case silk embroidery, 2 cases feathers, 50 bales waste silk, 14 packages human hair. For London—50 bales waste silk, 45 bales raw silk, 12 cases human hair, 6 cases silk, 7 cases feathers, 1 case cigars, 7 cases curios, &c., 250 cases preserves. For Lyons—179 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar—2 cases silk goods.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nore*, sailed on the 15th December, 1909. For Manchester—160 bales waste silk. For Rotterdam—2 cases matting. For Antwerp—7 cases preserves. For Aberdeen—1 case cigars. For Boston, Mass.—175 bales waste silk. For Marseilles—100 bales hemp, 4 cases bamboo hats, 175 pkgs. tea, 28 pkgs. human hair. For London—2 cases hats, 2,007 rolls matting, 45 bales cane, 4 cases silk, 850 bxs. tea, 50 bales waste silk, 500 case ginger, 1 box silver ware, 1 case blackwood ware, 10 pkgs. p/fects, 2,122 pkgs. govt cargo, 7 pkgs. cylinders. For Malta—201 pkgs. tea.

EXCHANGE.

Hongkong, December 20th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	226½
Credits 4 months' sight	230½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	184
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank, on demand	133½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank on demand	133½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	75
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	88
ON MANILA.—On demand	88½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	76½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	108½
ON HAI PHONG.—On demand	8½ n.e. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	8 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	85½
SVREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.10
GLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$57.90
BAR SILVER per oz	24½

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS

HONGKONG, 17th December, 1909.—Business continues dull and inactive, the December settlement, both here and in Shanghai, overshadowing the market to some extent. Rates, however, are fairly well maintained and in some few cases show improvements. Exchange on London closes at 1/9½, T/T, and on Shanghai at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed during the week at 997½ and 995, the market closing steady at the latter rate. London has improved to £91.15.0. Nationals continue to be enquired for at 65, but no shares come on the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue to advance and sales have been affected during the week at 890 and 895, closing with some small lots on offer at the latter rate. North Chinas have receded in the North to 110, after sales at 115 and 112½. Cantons have found buyers at 150, and China Traders are wanted at 92, Yangtszes are quoted at 230 in the North.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas improved in the early part of the week to 118 with small sales, and later to 118½, the market closing steady at 118. Hongkong's continue neglected with sellers and no sales at 375.

SHIPPING.—In 'os have been in some demand and sales have been effected at 60, 61 and 61½ cash a d at 62 for March, closing firm with further buyers at 62. Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to 31½ without sales, buyers failing to obtain any shares even at that advanced rate. Shells are quoted in London at 68½, and there are local buyers at that rate. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks. Indo-Chinas are quoted at £5.7.6 in London for combined shares.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled rather quieter and with some small parcels offering for the settlement the rate got weaker and fell to 159 sellers. At time of writing shares might be obtained at a slightly lower rate. Luzons continue neglected and with a few shares on offer at quotation.

MINING.—Raub, notwithstanding a favourable crushing of 1,203 oz. from 4,927 tons of ore, remain quite neglected with sellers at 7½. Langk is quoted in the North at Tls. 810 ex div. and bonus of Tls. 20 paid on the 15th inst. Chinese Engineerings have fallen to 19 with sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands at 51 and more are enquired for; holders, however, are very loth to part at these low rates, and shares are scarce. Kowloon Wharfs remain unchanged and without business. Shanghai Docks have receded to 76, and Hongkew Wharfs to 128. Sales of the latter have taken place at 131 and 130 for April settlement.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been negotiated at 102, and more shares are probably obtainable at that rate. West Points have found further small buyers at 44. Hotels have improved to 77½ and 45 for old and new, respectively, and no shares are available to meet a demand. Humphreys have been placed at the improved rate of 8½.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewes and Soy Chees are wired from Shanghai at 134 and 425. International and Lion Kung Mows are quoted in the last Shanghai circulars at 75 and 101, respectively. Hongkongs have sellers at 6½ and no sales to report.

RUBBERS.—Business continues quiet, but rates have steadied up a bit. Ledburys have been placed in fair lots at 47/3 to 47/0. Castlefields are enquired for at 50/0 after sales at that rate. Shelfolds have declined to 30/0 and Anglo-Malays to 14/0 with sellers. Linggis are in request at 23/6 ex last div. of 6½. Balgownies after some small sales at 75 have been done at 77½ and close strong at the latter rate. P. gohs have found buyers at 22.60, and Pajas at 7.75.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Stocks under this heading continue neglected, and with the exception of small sales of Electrics at 20, and Watson's at 7, we have no business or changes to report.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$995
National B. of China	26	291.15.
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12½, sellers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$6, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.50
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 134
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 90
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 111
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 425
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$16½, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$61½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$51, sales & buy.
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$9, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 128
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$7½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$20, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co. }	\$50	\$77½, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$45, buyers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$25	\$18½, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$23, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$150, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$118
China Traders	\$25	\$92, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$375, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 112½
Union	\$100	\$95
Yangtze	\$60	\$230
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$102, sales
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$44, sales
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raub	18/10d.	\$7½, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$13½, sellers
Philippine Co., Ltd...	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Philippine Co., Ltd...	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$159, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$8, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, sellers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$31½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$42, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	25	\$20, buyers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$26, buyers
South China M. Post...	\$5	\$14½, sellers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$5½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M & Co.	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$3, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$7, sales
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$10	\$10, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½, sellers
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$300
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Rubbers—		
Balgownies	—	\$77½ (Sts.) buy.
Pegohs	—	\$22 (Sts.)
Ragallas	—	28 (Sts.)
Anglo-Malays	—	14/-
Castlefields, fully p.	—	51/-
Consolidated Malays	—	\$4-10-0
D. mansaras	—	\$4-0-0
H'lands & L'lands...	—	61/- buyers
Kamunings	—	2/9 prem.
Kuala Lumpur.....	—	90/-
Ledbury's	—	47/- sales
Linggis	—	23/6, buyers
Sapongs	—	23/6, sellers
Shelfords	—	30/-
Sungei-Kapars	—	72/-

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

9th December, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$1,020, nom.
National of China...	26	\$65, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R1874	Tls. 125
Insurance—		
Union Society C't'n	\$100	\$860, sales
North-China	25	Tls. 110, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ...	\$60	\$230, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$162½, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$375, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$114½, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. }	25	Tls. 43, nom.
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$3.8/.
& Trading { pref. }	210	\$11.0.0
S'hai Tug & pref. }	T50	Tls. 43, buyers
Lighter ... { ord. }	T50	Tls. 53, nom.
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 45, nom.
Kochien Transport-	T50	Tls. 49, sales
ation & To Boat		
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 77, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$50, buyers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 130, nom.
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$62½, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 200, sales
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 345, nom.
China Refining.....	\$100	\$159, nom.
Mining—		
Raub Australian ...	21	Tls. \$7½, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	Tls. 19, nom.
Lands—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 120, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$103, sales
Humphreys' Estate	T10	\$9, sellers
Weiheiwei	T20	Tls. 9, nom.
China	T50	Tls. 50, nom.
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 106, sales
Plantations—		
Kalumpung Rubber	T50	Tls. 232½, buyers
Chempedak		Tls. 15, sales
S. R'ber Estates...	T100	Tls. 340, nom.
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	21	Tls. 18, buyers
Dominion Rubbers..	T6	Tls. 15, sales
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 117½, nom.
Cottons, etc.—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 133½, buyers
Internationals	T75	Tls. 75, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 101, buyers
Soy Chees	T50	Tls. 410, sellers
H.C.S.W.D.Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$6, sales
Shanghai Cotton ...	T50	Tls. 74, buyers
Eastern Fibre	210	Tls. 10, nom.
Industrial—		
Maatschappij, &c.,	Gs. 100	Tls. 790, buyers
in Langkat.....	T50	Tls. 108, sellers
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 52½, nom.
Major Brothers.....	T25	Tls. 15, nom.
Shanghai Ice.....	T50	Tls. 60, sellers
China Flour Mill ...	T100	Tls. 35, sales
S'hai Pulp & Paper	\$10	\$7½, sales
Green Is. Cement....	220	Tls. 425, nom.
S'hai Waterworks...	\$100	\$82½, nom.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	T50	Tls. 23½, nom.
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	T100	\$6.0.0-nom.
Shanghai Electric		
Construction	25	\$20½, nom.
China Im. & Ex.	T50	Tls. 50, nom.
Lumber		
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos		
China Printing Co.	\$20	\$25, sellers
Stores—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$60	\$65, nom.
A. Llewellyn.....	\$10	\$8, sellers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$15	\$15, buyers
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$400, buyers
Central Founders ...	\$50	\$40, nom.
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$20	\$26, buyers
Weeks & Co.	\$100	\$165, nom.
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$50	\$35, nom.
Dunning & Co.		
Hotels—		
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$75
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 4, sales
Miscellaneous—		
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 55, nom.
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 55, buyers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 65, sales
Dallas Horse Re-	T50	Tls. 25, nom.
pository		

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending December 9th state—A large amount of business has been recorded this week; the chief features being the rise in Rubber shares generally and the sudden appreciation of Langkat quotations. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. \$1,020 on the 4th. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. On the 3rd at \$225. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. On the 7th at Tls. 43 for cash. Docks and Wharves.—On the 4th and 5th at Tls. 30 December, on the 6th at Tls. 134, 134½, 135 March, on the 7th at Tls. 132 cash. Tls. 131, 132, 135 and 136½ December. Tls. 135, 136, 137, 139 and Tls. 139½ March, on the 8th at Tls. 134 December. Tls. 135½, 134½, 133 March. Shanghai Docks. On the 6th at Tls. 76 cash, on the 7th and 8th at Tls. 76½ December. Yangtze Wharf and Godowns. On the 7th at Tls. 200. Sugars.—Peraks. On the 4th at Tls. 360 December. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. On the 7th at Tls. 120. Anglo-French. On the 3rd at Tls. 106. Plantations.—Ayer Tawahs. On the 3rd at Tls. 8. Kroewoeks. On the 3rd at Tls. 16½ and Tls. 17, on the 6th at Tls. 17, 17½ and 18 cash, on the 7th at Tls. 18 cash, on the 8th at Tls. 18½, 19, 20 cash, and 20-21 March. Almas. On the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th at Tls. 12½ cash. Kalumpungs. On the 6th at Tls. 232½ cash. Dominions. On the 4th at Tls. 14 cash, on the 7th at Tls. 14½ cash and Tls. 17½ fully paid up. Tebongs. On the 6th at Tls. 17½ cash, on the 7th at Tls. 17½ cash and December. Chempedaks. On the 8th at Tls. 14. Shanghai Sumatras. On the 3rd at Tls. 115 March, on the 6th at Tls. 115, 116 December, and Tls. 117½, 117, 116 and 115 March, on the 7th at Tls. 117½ December and March, on the 8th at Tls. 116 cash, 120 December, 118 and 120 March. Cottons.—Ewos. On the 3rd at Tls. 130 December, 4th at Tls. 131 December, 6th at Tls. 134 December and Tls. 137½-136½ March, on the 7th at Tls. 134 December, and Tls. 136½ March, on the 8th at Tls. 134 December and Tls. 137 March. Shanghai Cottons. On the 4th at Tls. 70 cash, 7th at Tls. 70-72 December and 74½ March, on the 8th at Tls. 73½ December and 76-77 March. Laou Kung Mows. On the 8th at Tls. 101 December and 104 March. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas. On the 3rd and 6th at Tls. 107½. Shanghai Waterworks. On the 3rd at Tls. 435. Maatschappij &c., in Langkats. On the 3rd at Tls. 732½, 735, 740, 735 December. Tls. 760, 765, 760 and 755 March, on the 4th at Tls. 750, 755, 760, 775, 780. March, 735, Tls. 740 December, 735 and 740 cash, on the 6th at Tls. 810, 812½, 820, 825, 800, 790, 780 March, Tls. 850, 790, 765, 760 December, on the 7th at Tls. 810, 815, 800, 790, 785, 790 March. Tls. 780 December, on the 8th at Tls. 770, 780, 770 December. Tls. 800 and 805 March. Stores.—On the 4th Weeks and Co. at \$26. Hall and Holtz at \$25. Hotels.—Aster House Hotels \$20 on the 4th. Miscellaneous.—Telephones. On the 7th and 8th Tls. 65. Loans.—Municipal 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 105. Shanghai Land 6½ per cent. at Tls. 103½. Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. at Tls. 103½ and Tls. 103.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December:— ARRIVALS.

9, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.

9, Yotorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.

10, Banri Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.

10, Benedi, British str., from Singapore.

10, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.

10, Chowfa, Ger. str., from Hoihow.

10, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.

10, Haimun, Brit. str., from Swatow.

10, Himalaya, British str., from Shanghai.

10, Huichow, British str., from Tientsin.

10, Knivsberg, Ger. str., from Hoihow.

10, Manshu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.

10, Onsang, British str., from Java.

10, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.

10, P. Sigismund, German str., from Sydney.

10, Shakano Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.

10, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.

10, Taming, British str., from Manila.

10, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.

10, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from Miike.

10, Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.

11, Childar, Nor. str., from Bangkok.

11, Clam, British str., from Singapore.

11, Deucalion, Br. str., from Yokohama.

11, Fooshing, British str., from Wuhu.

11, Hongbee, British str., from Swatow.

11, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.

12, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.

12, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.

12, G. Apcar, Br. str., from Calcutta.

12, Haiyang, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Hunan, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Idomeneus, British str., from Saigon.
 12, Kisagata Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 12, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 13, Amigo, German str., from Hoihow.
 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 13, Glacier, U.S. str., from Manila.
 13, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 13, Indramyo, Br. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Japan, British str., from Moji.
 13, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Silesia, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Yuensang, Br. str., from Manila.
 13, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 14, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 14, Bushu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 14, China, American str., from San Francisco.
 14, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 14, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Halvard, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
 14, Henrik Ibsen, Nor. str., from Portland.
 14, Katuna, British str., from New York.
 14, Marie, German str., from Swatow.
 14, Nere, British str., from Yokohama.
 14, Prinz Ludwig, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
 14, Scandia, German str., from Singapore.
 14, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
 15, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Brand, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 15, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
 15, Buelow, German str., from Hamburg.
 15, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 15, Hellas, Ger. str., from Wakamatsu.
 15, Hsin Chang, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 15, Mishima Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 15, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 15, Yu Shun, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 16, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 16, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 16, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Han Sung, Korean str., from Weihaiwei.
 16, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 16, Kiukiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Binh Chuan, French str., from Haiphong.
 17, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 17, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 17, Taikoson Maru, Jap. str., from Miike.
 17, Tean, British str., from Manila.

December -- DEPARTURES.

10, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
 10, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 10, Mandasan Maru, Japanese str., for Miike.
 10, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 10, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 10, Socotra, British str., for Takao.
 11, Awa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 11, Chinkiang, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 11, Himalaya, British str., for Europe &c.
 11, Kwangle, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 11, Laisan, British str., for Singapore.
 11, Nanchang, British str., for Tsingtau.
 11, Yetoron Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 12, Banri Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 12, Benledi, British str., for Nagasaki.
 12, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 12, Clam, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Clara Jebson, German str., for Hongay.
 12, Chinhua, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 12, Dakotah, British str., for Iloilo.
 12, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 12, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Hanyang, British str., for Swatow.
 12, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 12, P. Sigismund, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 12, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Moji.
 12, Wakamatsu M. Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
 14, Chowfa, German str., for Amoy.
 14, Deucalion, British str., for Singapore.
 14, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 14, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Kiang Ching, Chi. str., for Chinkiang.
 14, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Samsen, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 14, Sungkiang, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 14, Toonan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 14, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

14, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 15, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 15, Choising, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Eastern, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 15, G. Apear, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Huichow, British str., for Singapore.
 15, Indramyo, British str., for Singapore.
 15, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 15, Nore, British str., for Singapore.
 15, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
 15, Silesia, German str., for Straits.
 15, Yunuan, British str., for Hoihow.
 16, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 16, Buelow, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Ischia, Italian str., for Singapore.
 16, Katuna, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Liangchow, British str., for Tsingtau.
 16, Mishima Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 16, Prinz Ludwig, Ger. str., for Europe &c.
 16, Scandia, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Yochow, British str., for Ningpo.
 17, Bushu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 17, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 17, Childar, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 17, Chowfa, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Hanoi, French str., for Q. Chow Wan.
 17, Kisagata Maru, Jap. str., for Hongay.
 17, Marie, German str., for Takao.
 17, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 17, Shikano Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 17, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 17, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Nore, from Shanghai, Mrs Getley.
 Per Haimun, from Swatow, Mr Cruickshank.
 Per Benledi, from Singapore, Mr L. Hamilton.
 Per Idomeneus, from Saigon, Mr Derham.
 Per Chipshing, from Tientsin, Mr E. Williams.
 Per Hunan, from Shanghai, Mrs Courtney and Mr Howard.
 Per Anhui, from Shanghai, Messrs Bickerton, Delaney and Chirdatt.
 Per Gregory Apear, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs B. Meyer and Dr. J. Moorhead.
 Per Chow Fa, from Hoihow, Director Leego, Consul Tenkins and Mr. Cross.
 Per Haiching, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Gilchrist, Mrs Giles and child.
 Per Tjibodas, from Batavia, Mr and Mrs De Orniif, Mr and Mrs Van de Voors and infant.
 Per Taming, from Manila, Messrs Aguado, French, Sargent, Sternberg, Kales, Rider and Newbre.
 Per Haimun, from Swatow, Mr and Mrs Henery, Mrs De Hansen, Messrs A. H. Ange and P. Tester.
 Per Choyang, from Shanghai, Mrs A. Kossade, Messrs K. Boueke and A. E. Paluson; from Swatow, Mr Edmont Kottach.
 Per Yuensang, from Manila, Mr and Mrs D. Langmann, Mrs H. B. Van de Roe, Mrs M. G. Cook, Messrs W. M. S. Muffey, J. Kurass, E. R. Curills, Charles Frederick and R. J. Strong.
 Per Zafiro, from Manila, Mr and Mrs I. M. Reynolds, Mr and Mrs Perkey, Mr and Mrs G. E. Schilling, Rev. and Mrs Rodgers, Mr and Master Lucky, Mrs M. McClintock, Mrs Fuller, Mrs Millar, Mrs S. D. Gordon, Mrs J. Shawnon, Misses L. A. Fruse, Kelly, Peel, J. Ivell, M. and A. Millar, Capt. McClintock, Messrs E. J. Kappler, A. L. Marshall, J. F. Young, F. W. Flies, J. W. Hendrick, Max. Doblins, F. Morgan and K. Susuki.
 Per Prinz Ludwig, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs Mitchell and daughter, Miss Furtner, Capt. R. H. C. Kelton and Mrs A. J. Mitchell; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs T. van d. Hurk, and Mrs Wm. Bruyn v. d. Kuyler; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Reinusat, Mr and Mrs Y. Eitor, Mr and Mrs T. R. Sterling; Mr and Mrs J. Weber, Dr. and Mrs Rossler, Mrs Ellis Kadoorie, Mrs Ch. G. Bolte and lady, Mrs J. C. Botelho, Messrs F. B. Marshall, P. Forum, Sydney Stafford, A. H. Reiss, Ch. H. Hayes, E. Zit, W. Linke, A. Hahn, jr., A. Hahn, sen., C. Clemine, J. Sugita and A. J. Perkins.

Per Persia, from Trieste, Mr. Redle.
 Per Huichow, from Tientsin, Mrs Ellis and child, and Mr Bourn.

Per Linan, from Shanghai, Dr. Douglas, Messrs Adreon, John Hawksby, Boorman Burton and Blaydes.

Per Prinz Sigismund, to Hongkong: from Sydney, Mrs. Crew and Mrs. Reichmann, Rev. H. Davies, Messrs. S. I. Kelly and family, R. Baron Wrangel and Regierungsrat Stuckhardt; from Manila, Mrs. S. E. Graham, Misses S. G. Holmes, C. Clark, E. Chambers, Peck and maid, Mr. & Mrs. Felter 2 children and servant, Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Marvin, Mr. & Mrs. Marsh and infant, Mr. & Mrs. F. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. I. P. Burnes, Col. W. M. Ridpath, Judge C. B. Dreming, Messrs Alvarez, Corcuera, L. G. Jolly, W. M. Brown, I. Ide, H. I. Rosencrantz, C. Rants and C. Loftus; from Simpsonhafen, Mr. Wöcke; from Yap, Mr. Weber.

Per Eastern, from Australian Ports, &c., Mr and Mrs C. J. Ross, Lt. and Mrs Gruber, Dr. and Mrs E. T. Tappy, Mrs W. A. Glassford, Mrs J. Ewin and child, Mrs A. Tormey, Mrs Nelson, infant and amah, Misses F. B. Randell, R. H. Anson, A. Seabrook, A. McEwan, Vida-Ross and Nelson, Major E. M. Norton, Dr. J. V. Tormy, Messrs F. Kruger, Edumando Carlos Barrod, Jose Passoo Sunas, Jose Augusto Fernandez, Annibas Periera de Fonseca, Antomas Mil Honneus Correa, Jose Mavellino de Campos, Antonio de Jesus Pereria, J. N. Sinclair, A. M. Evans, H. B. Rieba, N. Buckland, S. Bojhragnall, F. Betrani, S. Emanuel, J. C. Evans and Osada.

DEPARTED.

Per Buelow, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs C. Michelan, Mr and Mrs S. T. Kelly, Mrs and Miss Allen, Miss Brewis, Rev. P. Alvarez, Rev. A. Corcuera, Messrs F. Gobert, J. Bush, E. Hellel and A. Issakovish; for Kobe, Misses Grunberg and Maria; for Yokohama, Miss F. Kersten, Messrs H. E. Rigge, C. C. Wein and R. B. Wrangel.

Per Mishima Maru, for Japan, Mr and Mrs Buckland and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Takano, Baron and Baroness d'Anehan, Mrs Smith, Mrs Nagashima, Misses Buckland, Strong, Brinkley, Haggard, Guiccioli, Hodge, Kikuno and T. Watanabe, Messrs Hashimoto, Max. Dobbins, Kumoi, Okura, Paget, B. Takigawa, W. S. Brown, Kajiwa, G. Sadatome, Okamoto and Nakamura.

Per Rubi, for Manila, Mr and Mrs Whiley and child, Mr and Mrs McGrath, Mr and Mrs Predzfield, Mr and Mrs P. A. Meyer and infant, Dr. and Mrs H. D. Gibbs, Mrs Mitchell, Rev. Mother Caudide, Sisters Uhlrese, Damin, Marie, Franceis and Lomin, Messrs Oscar Tuewissen, J. F. Quinn, Corbett Winded, Sukesabura Kamihar, A. Treptan, Maria Serigia and Juana Mariano.

Per Nippon Maru, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs H. G. Worden, Mrs L. R. Sargent, Mrs K. Matsda and 3 children, Mrs J. G. Feeld, Misses O. Scattergood, A. C. Kelley and M. Burford, H.E. General Sir Joaquim J. Machado, Lieut. G. W. Dearthound, U.S.A., Capt. Norton, Dr. T. Vail, Dr. L. T. Newbre, Messrs G. H. Madhurst, J. J. Hunt, Fred. A. Thompson, E. H. Burch, J. A. Quin, John R. Reid, G. R. Chaobal, C. G. Abrahamson, C. Smith, Eric Tjader, E. G. Hussey and Albert Kopp.

Per Himalaya, for Bombay, &c., Mr and Mrs de Crue, Mr and Mrs P. B. Gifford, Mr, Mrs and Miss C. H. Lane, Mr and Mrs Reid, Mr and Mrs Helens, Mr and Mrs Cottell Dormer, Rev. and Mrs A. J. Tuttle, child and infant, Mrs and Miss Kennedy, Mrs F. Little, Mrs Arthur M. Dodge, Mrs C. Dodge, Mrs Blanche Lemert Wise, Misses Peck (3), B. Marsdon, L. B. Woosley and Watt (2), Lady Brooke and maid, Major L. T. F. M. Lord Brooke, M.V.O., Major J. O. Hutchinson, Consul Civatte, Lt. Innes and servant, Col. W. C. Lemert, Dr. Bruschetti, Dr. Army, Messrs C. B. Rayner, G. B. Perkins, W. Regenold, W. W. Keenall, W. Bow, Rudolph Perracca, Edward Keem, Pedroda Silva Junior, A. Hocking, K. A. Busrai, E. A. Tyebkham, Dunbar, S. T. Cohn, Graham, Haggie, P. A. Cox, L. Plummer, H. J. Norris, Shaw Hellier, Wostenholme, Koh, C. Leach and Heintze.

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